

Bush plans to put a new resolution to United Nations, while in the desert allied troops dig in

Gulf war guns fall silent as US sets out peace demands

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FIGHTING in the battlefields of Iraq and Kuwait ended yesterday after the allies' "quick, decisive and just" victory over President Saddam Hussein's army. The frontline allied forces adopted defensive positions. Other units screened the remnants of the enemy straggling home, hunting those guilty of atrocities.

The ceasefire, which came into effect at 01.00 GMT, was generally holding apart from sporadic fire. American soldiers destroyed two tanks and artillery in returning fire from Iraqis who probably knew nothing of the truce because their communications had been sabotaged by the allies. Brigadier-General Richard Neal, the American military spokesman, said: "We are not relaxing our guard for one minute."

Nor was President Bush relaxing his pressure on Iraq, in spite of ordering the end of offensive action. Washington is planning to put a new resolution to the United Nations Security Council today, setting out all the political requirements that must be satisfied before the war can formally be terminated.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, is understood to have suggested such a resolution during his visit to Washington on Wednesday, and the State Department was yesterday consulting the coalition partners on its terms. Demands are likely to include the immediate release of all prisoners of war and Kuwaiti detainees, acceptance in principle of liability for war damages and injuries, the rescinding of legislation annexing Kuwait and the immediate return of all Kuwaiti assets from aircraft to incinerators.

Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, said Washington

Saddam's blunders	2
Anger in Kuwait	3
Bush celebrates	4
Major's speech	5
Winners and losers	14
Simon Jenkins	14
Leading article	15
Letters	15
Share boost	25



would want a continued arms embargo against Iraq so long as Saddam Hussein remained in power, though the security council would have to decide whether to lift the broader economic sanctions. The resolution was also likely to end the freeze on Kuwaiti assets and to instruct Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, urgently to consider humanitarian aid to the Iraqi people.

Kuwait indicated last night that it would be demanding that the border with Iraq be drawn five or six miles closer to Baghdad before a formal ceasefire was declared. The new border would include a larger portion of the disputed Rumaila oilfield, which straddles the border and has an estimated 60 billion barrels of reserves.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar said last night that he foresaw no great problem to comply with the conditions stipulated by Mr Bush as they were in accordance with the previous resolutions. Early yesterday morning, the Iraqi ambassador to the UN, Abdul Amir al-Anbazi, had his chauffeur deliver to the UN a terse letter from the foreign minister accepting all 12 resolutions. The letter from Tariq Aziz said simply: "I have the honour to inform you officially that the government of Iraq agrees to comply fully with Security Council resolution 660 (1990) and all the other Security Council resolutions."

Baghdad yesterday accepted the ceasefire, declaring: "We are happy for the halt in fighting," the suspension of combat would "save the blood of our sons and the safety of our people". Iraq showed no

signs of admitting defeat, however, and the state radio pronounced: "The guards have broken up the backbone of their aggressors and thrown them beyond the borders. Let us celebrate the epic of the brave Republican Guard, who protected Iraq and preserved its great power."

The allies say the guard has been routed, along with the rest of the Iraqi army. General Neal said in his briefing that 42 Iraqi divisions had been rendered ineffective. Allied figures put the number of Iraqi deaths at up to 150,000 and the number of prisoners of war at 175,000. The coalition reported that 126 allied servicemen had been killed, 56 were missing and 13 had been taken prisoner.

The Queen sent messages of congratulation to the defence secretary, Tom King, and to Britain's commander in the Gulf, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière. She said she was delighted by the successful completion of the military campaign, adding: "The armed forces have done us proud." The Queen also sent a message to the Emir of Kuwait.

John Major hailed the outcome as a "victory for what is right". He told the Commons that Britain would be working through the UN to "seek a commitment from Iraq to destroy under international supervision all its ballistic missiles and weapons of mass

Continued on page 24, col 7



Dropping in: British commandos abseiling onto the roof of the British embassy in Kuwait. There were fears that the grounds had been mined



EC pledges £392,000 for Baghdad water supply

From GEORGE BROCK AND PETER GUILFORD IN BRUSSELS

KEEN to restore the battered credibility of its collective foreign policy, the European Community jumped rapidly into the post-war reconstruction business yesterday. Within hours of the ceasefire the officials announced that the Red Cross will receive £392,000 to clean up Baghdad's water supply.

An American embassy spokesman expressed surprise at the move, adding that Saddam Hussein had not yet given the Red Cross access to prisoners of war in Iraq. "We're looking into it and we have agreed nothing for the Iraqis yet," he said. A British spokesman was more guarded, saying that there would be no objection if the UN sanctions committee in Geneva passed it. European commission officials did not clarify whether specific UN permission had been granted. They defended themselves against criticism that they were assisting Iraq too quickly, saying that the

grant for a mobile water treatment unit was humanitarian assistance only and quite separate from economic measures. Community legal experts are also preparing to dismantle the embargo against Kuwait, but say that the economic squeeze will remain on Iraq for the time being. Abdel Matur, commissioner for the Middle East who will oversee the EC's post-war plans for the region, welcomed the allied victory but said that he promised to recognise "legitimate concerns" in the Arab world about social and economic justice. A spokesman for the commission said: "We've had reports that people are drinking polluted water and that there is an epidemic risk."

More bank jobs lost

Barclays Bank intends to shed 5,000 jobs this year, fuelling concern that more than 35,000 jobs are now at risk in the industry. Midland Bank has already announced it is to lose 4,000 jobs and Lloyds has said at least 2,200 jobs will have to be cut. National Westminster is also encouraging 15,000 staff to leave through early or voluntary retirement. Page 11

Abuse alleged

Nine children from four families on Orkney have been taken into care following allegations of ritualistic abuse. Page 9

New experience

Three weeks before the Soviet Union holds its first nationwide referendum, a sizeable proportion of the population has not the faintest idea what a referendum is. Some think it is some sort of test. Page 13

ICI's problems

ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturing company, admitted that profits, down more than £1 billion to £977m last year, were "just not good enough". The company provided for more than £400m restructuring costs, and dropped 800 jobs in its fertiliser business. Page 25

Comment, page 27

INDEX

Arts	20-21
Births, marriages, deaths	17
Business	25-31
Classified	17, 30, 35-38
Court & social	18
Crosswords	17, 24
Law Report	15
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Life & Times	19
Motoring	37
Obituaries	16
Short	39-42
TV & radio	23
Weather	24

Toast to victory with cocktail of emotions

As the 7th Armoured Brigade in Kuwait comes to terms with the ceasefire, Philip Jacobson gauges the post-battle feelings of the troops and finds a mixture of reactions

IN A junk yard of wrecked Iraqi tanks and troop carriers, Brigadier Patrick Cordingley yesterday welcomed the commanders of his main combat units with a beaming smile and expansive gesture that seemed to say: see what we have achieved together. Six hours after the suspension of hostilities proposed by President Bush, the 7th Armoured Brigade had rolled into its new positions astride a major road junction deep within Kuwait, having swept through the Iraqi defences in an almost uninterrupted surge that has covered at least 150 miles of desert terrain.

All around us were the remnants of Saddam Hussein's army, much of it abandoned without resistance, more smashed by the allies' lethal combination of air power and the imagination of air power and the imagination of air power. As this dispatch is written, we are about 30 miles from Kuwait City. On a clear day, which we have not had since breaking through the front-line defences last Sunday, one might even be able to see the tallest buildings there. The last lap of this advance was an extraordinary journey through mile after mile of enemy positions, apparently deserted in panic by Iraqi troops who had built a long series of well-fortified defensive points. In one regimental command bunker, we found a table laid for a meal that was never to be eaten, in another a pair of leather boots stood beside a neatly

made camp bed. Ammunition, AK-47 rifles, machine guns, and aircraft batteries and Soviet-made tanks littered the harsh landscape. It was as if the defenders' nerve had suddenly broken in the face of the battering they had absorbed and it became a matter of *survive qui peut*. The lucky ones, and they number thousands in this sector alone, put up their hands gratefully. Those who fled must have endured a hellish passage towards the dubious security of Basra under incessant air attack.

The area in which we now find ourselves is thought to contain up to 30,000 Iraqi troops, presumably still dug in defensively where they were awaiting what would surely have been the climatic attack by the 7th Armoured Brigade's Challenger tanks and infantry. In all probability they would first have been "softened up" — a strikingly misleading phrase — by another of the fearsome artillery barrages that have done so much to ruin enemy morale as well as smash their lines. We soon ran across Brigadier Ian Durie, commander of

the Royal Artillery arm of the brigade. For once he was without the tall shepherd's crook with which he liked to scratch out strategic plans in the sand, but he conceded that everything had gone pretty much perfectly. It is difficult to pin down the exact mood of the officers and troops now that the shooting appears to have stopped. Relief, certainly: when Brigadier Cordingley told me that total casualties in his brigade were estimated at two dead and 13 wounded, he seemed to be momentarily overcome by emotions. None of us believed the 7th Armoured Brigade would get off so lightly. Of course, there was sorrow too, for those who did not make it.

My last driver, Corporal Alex Jack of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, seemed to catch the feelings of British soldiers best when he expressed relief at not having seen any of the Iraqi dead. "Fighting them is one thing, discovering what we did to them is another. Thank Christ so many decided to give up or leg it away." Having got to know quite a few like

Corporal Jack and my mentor, Lance Corporal Stan Boardman, I am convinced that no other army could be more magnanimous in victory. Many an Iraqi POW would agree.

Of course, there is still plenty of soldiering to be done. No one knows how many minefields have been scattered, how much lethal ammunition will have to be blown up, where the booby traps still lurk to claim a life. Colonel John Moore-Dick of the Royal Engineers was already thinking about all this as he paced restlessly about our new compound. His sappers' many skills will probably be needed to help rebuild Kuwait. And what will happen to those enemy formations still in place, still armed? You will not find a man in the 7th Armoured Brigade who wants to stay a moment longer to look after the post-war operations.

For all that, there is a distinctly festive air around me. It is not giving away any great secret to report that a fair few bottles of whisky, previously masquerading as medicine, soft drink or even shampoo, have been produced for a quick toast to victory. My own glass came after seven weeks of dry living and was almost enough to knock me off my feet. I feel free to add that when I last saw Brigadier Cordingley, he and his colonels had also allowed themselves this minor breach of Kuwait law on a day of such intense feelings.

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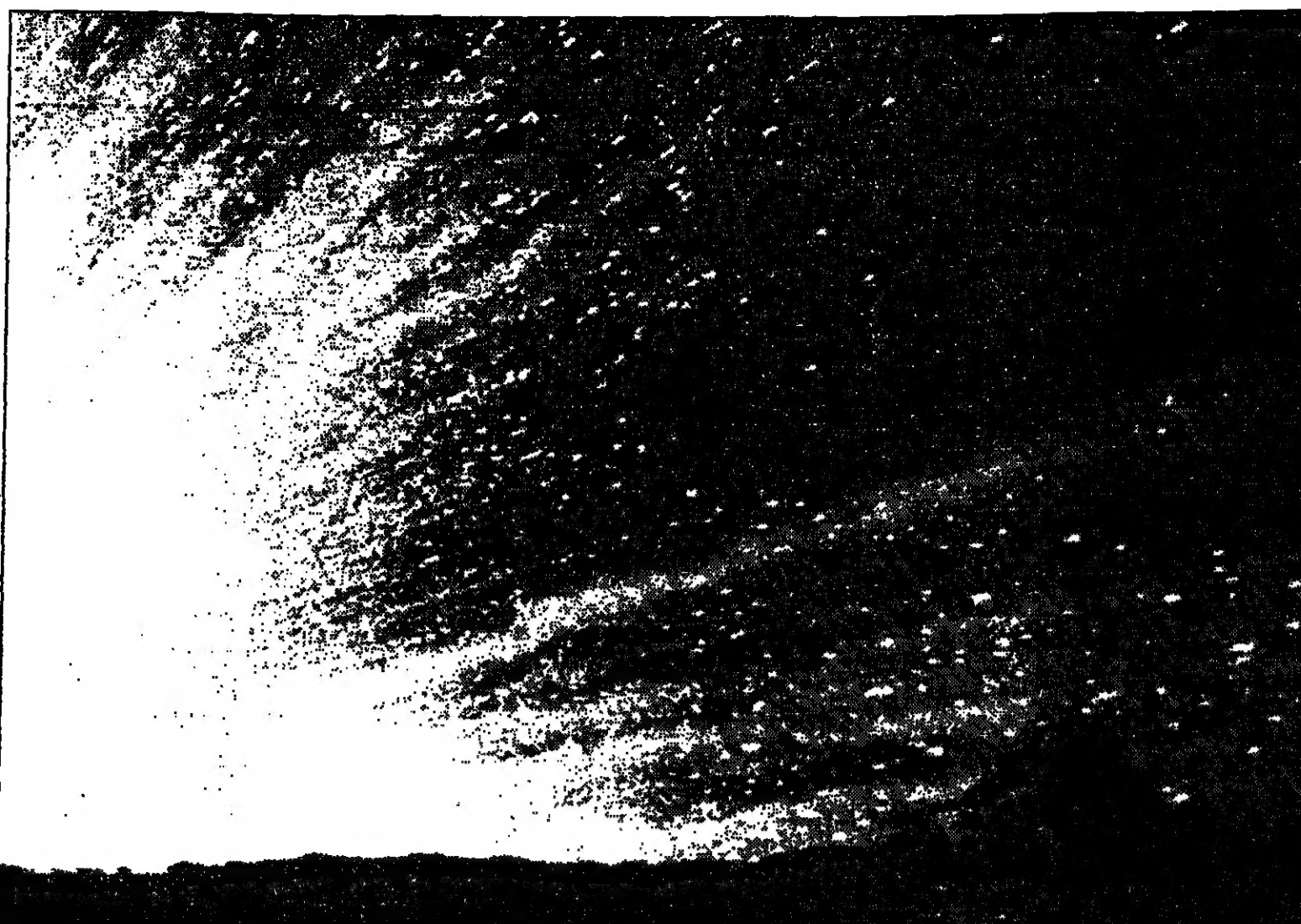
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In the heat of war: on land, British troops lie low as a grenade explodes in an Iraqi trench; at sea, USS Wisconsin fires its 16-inch guns; and in the skies, Jaguars set off on a raid

The blunders of Saddam Hussein

Since he invaded Kuwait last August Saddam Hussein, though often described as a master propagandist, has made a series of tactical mistakes and has consistently misjudged the effects of his actions on world opinion, as *Times* specialists explain in this chronology

Aug 2 THE INVASION

Saddam Hussein, boasting the fourth largest army in the world, invades Kuwait. His reputation is high in the region, his military might feared and his own leadership unchallenged. Yet within seven months his troops would be defeated, his reputation in the Arab world destroyed and his country in ruins. A series of diplomatic and military blunders by Saddam himself would produce this dramatic reversal of fortune.

Aug 3 THE HESITATION

Saddam's first important blunder is not to press on with his invasion into Saudi Arabia as he threatened. His army could have been routed



Dejected: Pérez de Cuéllar

against Iraq's one million men. He hesitates, providing time for the Saudi Arabians and their American allies to put together an anti-Saddam coalition. As a result, within three months, the Americans would be able to land 100,000 troops on his borders.

Aug 4 THE HOSTAGES

Thirty-five British servicemen staying in Kuwait are taken to Baghdad. Later the 4,500 Brit-

ons and 2,000 Americans in Kuwait are rounded up and it is announced that they will be used as "human shields" at key military and industrial plants. The revelation of this crude tactic causes in the West undoubtedly helps to unite the growing coalition.

Aug 6 UNITED NATIONS

Following a speech by Margaret Thatcher in which she says it was time for the United Nations to "stand up and be counted" the security council passes resolution 661 imposing mandatory sanctions and a trade embargo against Iraq. Throughout his dealings with the United Nations, Saddam was to take a high-handed approach that alienated many countries which might otherwise have supported him.

Aug 23 PROPAGANDA

Saddam Hussein appears on television with a group of British hostages and strokes the hair of Stuart Lockwood, aged five. In a series of interviews Saddam emphasises that he is confiscating the "corrupt wealth" of Kuwait's previous rulers, but he misunderstands the effect his actions have on Western public opinion, which is outraged. As American troops and British fighter aircraft begin to arrive in increasing numbers, the image of the hostages provides political momentum for the allied campaign.

Oct 21 HEATH'S VISIT

Perhaps Saddam is misreading Western determination because of the stream of Western elder statesmen to Baghdad. They range from Willy Brandt to President Waldheim of Austria, who secures the release of 95 hostages and urges the West to talk to Saddam. Edward

Heath in turn secures the release of 33 hostages after a three-hour meeting with Saddam. The effect of these meetings may have convinced the Iraqi leader that the West, so clearly filled with humanitarian spirit, lacks the will to sustain many casualties.

Nov 8 ALLIED STRATEGY

President Bush announces that between 150,000 and 200,000 more troops will be sent to the Gulf. Altogether a coalition army of more than 740,000 is being formed in the desert as allied generals prepare their battle plans. The first stages of General Norman Schwarzkopf's strategy are being devised: the systematic destruction of Iraq's air power, followed by a bi-tactic war in which "smart" bombs and cruise missiles would be used against Iraq's military infrastructure. From the beginning the allies are determined to minimise civilian casualties and to fight the initial stages of the war from the air.

Nov 18 HOSTAGES FREE

Having blundered in taking the hostages in the first place Saddam announces that he will release all 2,000 of them in batches before Christmas. The "human shields" tactic would, ironically, undoubtedly have affected Western military planning and made it much more difficult to destroy certain strategic targets. Although a command-and-control bunker was identified beneath the al-Rashid hotel in central Baghdad, it was never directly attacked during the war because of the presence of Western journalists.

Nov 29 THE DEADLINE

The security council approves resolution 678 allowing the "use of all necessary means" to drive Iraq out of Kuwait if it fails to withdraw by January 15. Saddam appears to embark on a policy of prevarication to stop any talks taking place. When Mr Bush requests direct negotiations with Baghdad, Saddam insists that the talks should be linked to the Palestinian question.

Dec 30 THE RHETORIC

Mr Bush tells *Time* magazine that he has a "gut feeling" Iraq will withdraw but the rhetoric from Baghdad grows more extreme. Saddam announces he is ready for the "mother of all battles".



Hostage: Stuart Lockwood

Jan 9 TALKS FAIL

After six hours of discussion, long-awaited talks between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, break down. Mr Baker admits that there was no sign of Iraqi flexibility. The American administration is now convinced that there is little hope for peace. Mr Aziz has brought no new proposals with him. Last-minute efforts are made by Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the UN secretary-general, who visits Baghdad. He had already been insulted by Saddam on a previous visit, having been kept waiting. His final visit proves fruitless as Saddam announces that unless Señor Pérez de Cuéllar has brought new proposals there will be no change in the Iraqi position. The UN official has no mandate from the security council to alter the terms of its resolutions.

Jan 15 DEADLINE PASSES

Within 17 hours the air war begins. Reporters in Baghdad watch the first of the air raids from their hotel. They are astonished by the accuracy of the bombing which hits key military installations, government buildings, telecommunications centres and power stations.

Jan 16 AIR WAR BEGINS

An American F117A stealth fighter bomber is the first allied aircraft to drop its bombs on a target near Baghdad. Saddam has used the months of failed diplomacy to move half of his huge army into Kuwait, believing the main allied attack will come there. But by bottling up so many of Saddam's troops to the south, General Schwarzkopf is able to outwit him by moving his own troops far out into the desert. When the ground war finally begins he will be able to outflank the Iraqi army, sever its supply lines and cut Iraq in two.

Jan 18 FIRST SCUDS

Saddam is convinced that he can divide the coalition of Arab and Western nations if he could persuade Israel to enter the war. He orders the firing of eight Scud missiles at Tel Aviv and Haifa, the first of a series of attacks against Israel and Saudi Arabia, convinced that this will spur Israeli retaliation. The attack creates panic in Israel, but fears that he would use chemical warheads prove unfounded. However, despite intense public anger Saddam has again miscalculated. The United States promises to send more Patriot defensive missiles to Israel to protect its citizens. In return it wins assurances that there will be no immediate response to the attacks.

Jan 21 PARADE OF POWS

Iraq is accused of violating the Geneva Convention on prisoners of war for parading captured airmen on Baghdad television. The airmen show signs of ill-treatment, provoking a wave of anger in the West. The anger among Western troops deepens when it is announced that captured servicemen will be taken to strategic sites to be used as "human shields".

Jan 25 POLLUTION

The US accuses Iraq of deliberately creating a huge oil slick

in the Gulf. There are predictions that it will become the largest slick ever. The intention appears to have been to prevent an allied amphibious assault - which General Schwarzkopf later revealed was a strategic ploy to tie down a large part of the Iraqi army. The action however appals world public opinion.

Jan 29 WAR AT SEA

As well as destroying the Iraqi airforce the allies are also keen to sink Saddam's navy, but potentially deadly, navy. On this day alone 17 Iraqi fast patrol boats are destroyed. The action, which includes

constant bombardment of the coastline by the wartime US battleships, Missouri and Wisconsin, is aimed at forcing Saddam to concentrate his firepower on the coast and pin down his better troops while the real allied offensive will come from the West.

Jan 30 BATTLE FOR KHAJFI

The first heavy ground fighting of the war breaks out in the deserted Saudi Arabian border town of Khafji. At first the Iraqis appear to have made considerable progress, but after 36 hours of fighting it is retaken by the allies. It later emerges that eight US marine casualties died as a result of



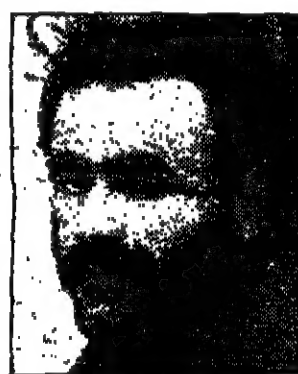
Paraded: RAF pilot

"friendly fire". The battle, while claimed as a great victory by Baghdad, may have strengthened the Iraqi belief that the main thrust of the

allied attack would come from close to the sea rather than more than a hundred miles to the west. Iraqi tactics, in pretending to surrender and then firing on allied troops, strengthen the suspicion that Saddam cannot be trusted, and undermine any faith in subsequent Iraqi promises to negotiate.

2 Feb IRAQI COLLAPSE

There are reports of hundreds of Iraqi soldiers crossing the border to surrender. After



Captured: Iraqi POW

weeks of heavy bombardment their morale is low, supplies of food and water have dried up in many units. American "psy-ops" specialists suspect that the fight has gone out of the Iraqi army. General Schwarzkopf later reveals that US intelligence sources learn that Saddam has sent execution squads to the front line to deal with deserters.

Feb 13 SHELTER BOMBING

An underground air-raid shelter in central Baghdad is hit by an allied bomb killing 28 civilians. The pictures and reports of the suffering provoked a wave of unease in the West about the morality of the bombing campaign. Although Saddam attempts to exploit what he calls allied "atrocities" civilian casualties are kept to a minimum.

Feb 15 IRAQ SEEKS PEACE

A statement from the Revolu-

tionary Command Council appears to offer peace, but a long list of conditions is attached. President Bush dismisses it as a "cruel hoax". Saddam again appears ready to accept the conditions of a previous allied offer, but balks at recognising his seriously weakened bargaining power. Throughout the conflict neither he nor Tariq Aziz can be pinned down to definite commitments: he declares willingness to "withdraw" from Kuwait, but refuses to commit Iraq to any of the other United Nations resolutions. The next few days see a flurry of diplomacy when Moscow makes a last-ditch attempt to avert a ground war. Tariq Aziz goes to Moscow, but carries no firm commitments. The allies press Moscow to include commitments on such issues as prisoners of war. The Kremlin begins 36 hours of hectic negotiations. But even as Aziz is on his way back to Moscow, Saddam broadcasts a defiant message that his country will continue on the path of resistance. The effect is to discredit Aziz's subsequent announcement, after midnight talks with President Gorbachev, that Iraq is ready to accept most UN conditions. The impression is given that Iraq is playing for time, attempting to split Moscow from the coalition.

Feb 23 GROUND WAR

Mr Bush announces that "the liberation of Kuwait has now entered a final stage". General Schwarzkopf's battle plan goes almost too well, with Iraqi soldiers surrendering in such large numbers that the allies have difficulty coping with them. The attack that Saddam had not anticipated, to the west of his forces, cuts their supply lines.

● On Feb 26 Kuwait City is recaptured. On Feb 27 the Republican Guard is encircled.

Feb 28 CEASEFIRE

After exactly 100 hours the ground war is over. Iraq defeated and Saddam Hussein facing an uncertain future.

How the Iraqis failed to realise Pentagon's doomsday fears

THE 100-hour land war was an unprecedented military success story. But it was also a story of what might have been. The "worst case" scenarios drawn up by the Pentagon planners envisaged the kind of war in which the allies would suffer tens of thousands of casualties. As many as 10,000 Americans could lose their lives. President Bush was warned at one stage late last year.

Yet the figure of confirmed American deaths is only 79. Britain, which lost 255 in the 28-day Falklands battle in 1982, suffered 16 deaths, though 12 are still listed as missing. Only two French soldiers were killed.

But the appalling casualty toll suffered by Iraq - estimates range from 80,000 to 150,000 - says more about this conflict than any other statistic. The Iraqis were killed in such huge numbers because they could not compete

with the allied fighter-bombers and they did not have the motivation or will power to fight.

Comparisons with casualty figures in other modern wars underline the one-sided nature of the conflict with Iraq, including even the two Arab-Israeli wars in which Israel was inspired by the greatest of all motivations - its very existence. In the 1967 six-day war, 679 Israelis and 3,000 Arabs were killed. In the 1973 Yom Kippur war, 2,412 Israelis died, and Egypt and Syria lost about 9,000 each.

When the Pentagon began planning to take on the Iraqis, the high casualty estimates were based on the fact that President Saddam Hussein's potential war-fighting capability was awesome. Even after the bombing campaign had started to make serious inroads into his military and strategic infrastructure, there

In "worst case" scenarios drawn up last year, thousands of US casualties were expected. Michael Evans explains why the allies overestimated Iraqi strength

were still fears that Saddam would be able to deliver enough deadly punches to cause heavy casualties. The huge network of hardened ammunition storage sites and command and control bunkers, and the multitude of runways throughout the country never ceased to amaze the allies.

But it was the fear of chemical and biological warfare which drove the Pentagon planners to assume the worst. When fears grew that the Iraqis may have developed warheads which could hurt anthrax, bubonic plague and other toxic viruses at the allied forces, everyone was expecting

the war with Iraq to be a doomsday conflict, in which the use of weapons of mass destruction would change the face of the whole Middle East region and destroy any hopes of improving global security.

There was never any real likelihood that the Americans would have resorted to chemical weapons in retaliation, still less tactical nuclear weapons. The allied response would have been directed more at Saddam himself. Nevertheless, allied commanders in the Gulf were so convinced that the Iraqis would use chemical weapons, that every

battle scenario drawn up by General Norman Schwarzkopf, the coalition commander, envisaged fighting in a "chemical environment".

The fact that chemical and biological weapons were not used says more about the state of mind of the Iraqi commanders in the front line than the strategic thinking of Saddam, who had authorised his forces to fire chemical shells before the allied land campaign began. Chemical mines had been planted, but that was the nearest the allies came to fighting in the worst case scenario painted by the Pentagon all those months ago. We still do not know whether the Iraqis had succeeded in developing a chemical warhead for their Scud missiles.

It will no doubt be recorded by military historians that the allies overestimated the strengths and weapon systems of the Iraqi

forces. The five armoured and three infantry divisions of the Republican Guard were, it is true, described from the very beginning as an elite force, as if they were superior in every way to any American, British or French unit which would have to confront them.

This was always false, later proved by the conduct of the Republican Guard when called to battle against the might of the 7th US Corps. Nevertheless, it was right to place the Republican Guard on a pedestal for planning purposes because they were regarded as the only element of Saddam's one million-man army which posed a serious threat to the allies.

The Iraqi forces are expected to emerge from their seven-month sojourn in the Kuwaiti desert with several hundred of their tanks which, added to the 1,000

or so still in Iraq, will still be more than double the size of Iran's tank force and about the same as that of Jordan. The rest of Saddam's war-fighting armour lies burnt, crippled or captured as part of the allies' spoils of war.

The assessment of the Iraqi army after 100 hours of fighting and seven months of sitting in trenches is that while they were a potent force in terms of equipment and manpower, they were incapable of stringing formations together and acting in a cohesive manner. Billions of dollars had been spent on airfields and weapon systems but they did not have the military capability, the training, or the doctrine, to bring it all together.

They were only able to operate on the basis of pre-conceived strategies. They were out of their depth when confronted by a full scale land-air-sea offensive.

A tale of two cities: harvest of bitterness amid the destruction of war-torn Baghdad and Kuwait

Kuwait anger rises as citizens learn extent of outrages

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KUWAIT CITY

JUBILATION at the liberation of Kuwait was tinged yesterday with a growing mood of anger and sober reflection at the enormity of the Iraqi rape of the once thriving desert sheikhdom.

Nothing that one has read or viewed over the past seven months can prepare a new arrival for the horror of what has been perpetrated against its people, their possessions and even its animals and carefully nurtured green areas.

From the skeleton-thin, once proud Arab stallions at the sacked equestrian and hunting club, foraging for water in filthy upturned garbage containers, to the primary schools methodically stripped of every air conditioner, the impression is of looting and wanton destruction on a scale not seen since ancient times. In a three-hour tour of the city, I lost count of the thousands of cars stripped of every working part.

Grotesque stories were told of starving Iraqi troops even resorting to eating the snakes as well as other animals. One man had lost 33lb since the invasion; he had been working at an electricity generating plant near the Saudi border and had been eating only one loaf a day because the Iraqi troops regularly stole his other food.

Perhaps the most telling sights are the shattered remains of Soviet-built Iraqi trucks hit by bullets and

missiles as they tried to beat an undignified but profitable retreat to the border. Most looked more like removal vans than military vehicles. Their twisted chassis told the story of the motives behind the "mother of battles".

Kuwaiti citizens picked through the wreckage, not to pilfer but to show to each other and to any visitor just how the Iraqi soldiers had been behaving even at the eleventh hour. "Look here, it is incredible. Christmas lights, children's clothes, ladies' dresses and every sort of household furniture," said one Kuwaiti, poking through the contents of a lorry hit by gunfire. They included gas stoves and a water cooler.

A nearby Soviet tank, also disabled, told the same story. The inside had been filled with every conceivable looted possession, now covered with congealed blood.

Along the once busy Al Rai street, the luxury car show-rooms had each been laid bare. Even the nurseries were in decay, all their flowers either dead or, if residents were to be believed, eaten by the Iraqi troops. I visited two white luxury villas, systematically looted and nearly destroyed because their owners belonged to the Kuwaiti armed forces. One of the houses had been set ablaze while its owner was still allegedly inside. Outside both were cars that had also been

incinerated. But defiantly hanging on the buildings now were large Kuwaiti flags.

Worse than the luxury hotels torn apart, the factories destroyed, the once booming fairground removed complete to Baghdad — it was often the smaller act of wanton destruction which hit home; the coloured paving stones ripped from the attractive cornice running along the beach, the wheels removed from ambulances, the transfer to Iraq of even the city's garbage containers — and all the lorries which used to collect them. It is also a city without buses; all are now in Baghdad or Basra.

My guide, chosen from the thousands of Kuwaitis driving through the streets waving flags, honking horns, shouting in the air and shouting greetings to every Westerner, had a tale to tell which could easily have come, details apart, from every Kuwaiti. Each family appears to have suffered under the occupation.

Abdul Razak, aged 23, an electrician, had spent much of the war in hiding and sleeping during the day because he and his father refused to leave the house unguarded when their womenfolk slept at night. The tactics the Iraqis used to scare people were terrible. The favourite was to take a young man to his home and ring the doorbell. When the women opened the door they shot the victim through the head and left him on the doormat.

Mr Razak, whose wife Sana, aged 21, confirmed details of the Iraqi reign of terror, told of his cousin aged 24 executed for suspicion of being in the resistance, a close friend of the same age tortured with electric shocks on the genitals and earlobes, and a close woman friend, Umm Kadid, who called Saddam a dog in the hearing of some soldiers. They shot her and her leg was amputated. "But she has not yet had an artificial one fixed because they stole all those as well. Can you believe it?"

Amid the still heady atmosphere of freedom, a danger of kangaroo justice was also emerging. I watched as vigilantes driving sports coupes, wearing coloured bandannas and carrying RPG rocket-launchers and A47 rifles, dragged away two suspected Sudanese collaborators from a block of flats close to the British embassy.

"We know them. We have the lists. We have been watching," said one excited Kuwaiti. When I asked what would happen to the two frightened-looking men, he grinned and put a finger to his head.



Telling tale: American marines of the 3rd Regiment examine the shattered remains of a British Airways Boeing 747 destroyed by Iraqi troops at Kuwait airport on August 2, the day of the invasion. The plane was held and its passengers were taken to Iraq as hostages

RECONSTRUCTION

Sappers tackle clean-up task

FROM LIN JENKINS IN THE GULF

THE pace was slow, even though the mission is urgent, as the Royal Engineers lumbered towards a crippled Kuwait to begin to bring back the essentials of life.

The engineers were taking with them thousands of tons of heavy equipment to begin the slow rebuilding of a country torn apart by the Iraqi invasion and further ravaged by the violent process of liberation. With them they also brought water. "We don't just back up the forces, but consider the local population too. After all, we are going in before even the Red Cross," said one.

The convoy took less than 12 hours to pack up and leave the RAF air base at Bahrain where the Royal Engineers had been based during Operation Desert Storm. In darkness, they drove out towards the causeway in Saudi Arabia, a Land-Rover pulling a generator, followed by the first of the low loaders carrying a bulldozer and a succession of 36-tonne trucks, each towing a generator, fuel tanker or trailer packed to overflowing with tools and supplies.

The odd assortment of vehicles drove steadily through torrential rain lit up every few seconds by spectacular lightning. At an overnight stop drivers opted for the comfort

of their cabs rather than the damp of the flooded tented camp. Yesterday an advance party flew the last leg to Kuwait City followed by two Land-Rovers along the roads.

The rest of the Royal Engineers are to follow today in a convoy of more than 70 vehicles. Captain Geoff Jefferys, quartermaster of the 53 Field Squadron (construction) Royal Engineers, said: "It is a good finale to be the first British unit into Kuwait City and give support to the troops and civilian population. We were the first unit into Saudi at the beginning to get everything prepared, and now we are clearing up the mess."

The 185 men will tackle the essential task of restoring life to some semblance of normality. Operation Winger will concentrate on setting up an emergency water supply and connecting a ship-to-shore line feeding fresh water from a tanker. A similar pipeline will also be built to bring fuel ashore.

A specialised team will work out a map of minefields as a first step in the long and hazardous task of clearing them, and another will install emergency power supplies and begin permanent repairs. (This report is subject to allied military reporting restrictions)

BAGHDAD

Saddam's soldiers pour into streets to celebrate

By NICHOLAS WAIT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ALLIED bombs continued to pound Baghdad early yesterday, less than an hour before President Bush announced a ceasefire, but with the dawn news hundreds of soldiers poured into the streets to fire their machineguns in celebration, shouting "Allahu akbar" (God is great).

The streets quickly filled with people, and cars returned after several weeks in which traffic had been paralysed by the allied bombardment and petrol shortages. The official announcement of the ceasefire was not broadcast until three hours after it had been ordered to take effect. Before that, the news was passed from house to house, after residents had tuned in to foreign radio stations.

Amid the usual praise for President Saddam Hussein, a few Iraqis openly criticised their leader. A BBC report was cut off by a government censor when two well-dressed men expressed reservations at Saddam's conduct of the war.

Shopkeepers said that they would be reopening their stores for the first time since the beginning of the war on

January 17. A clothes seller said he was delighted to hear car horns for the first time in what seemed an eternity. "Listen, listen. Life is returning to normal," he said. His happiness was particularly sweet when he notched up his first sales success of the day: a pair of cowboys, as Iraqis call jeans. But men on the streets worried about the cost of the war and the rebuilding of their country. "There will be sorrow and struggle out of this," one man, a musician aged 59, said.

Rashid Muhammad Khalil, a white-haired merchant, aged 53, forced to leave Basra at the onset of the conflict, criticised the allies' double standards. "The international community forced us, by war, to accept the United Nations resolutions, but it does nothing to make Israel or Turkey do the same. Israel has been occupying the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights since 1967, and Turkish troops have been in northern Cyprus since 1974. The United Nations has condemned both occupations."

He was bitter about the destruction wrought on Iraq's

economic fabric, saying that peace had been re-established, but on the country's ruins.

He maintained there was no popular support for a change in Iraq's government in order to help rebuild the country. "Whoever wants to do that would be a traitor. Families will get by eating a bit of bread and drinking a little tea. They are willing to do that so that they don't become agents of the United States and its food."

Baghdad radio yesterday claimed victory over the allies, saying that Iraq had rubbed the Americans' noses in the dust. "You have won, Iraqis. Iraq is the one that is in control and the one that is victorious. Iraq fought infidelity with faith and fought evil and aggression," it said.

Another commentary said: "Iraq has succeeded in demolishing the aura of the United States — the empire of evil, terror and aggression. Iraq has punched a hole in the myth of American superiority and rubbed the nose of the United States in the dust." (This report is subject to Iraqi military reporting restrictions)

MARTIAL LAW

Emir prepares to reassert control

FROM AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE IN MANAMA

AFTER 207 days in exile in Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait, yesterday was poised to reassert his authority in his liberated homeland, backed by a 12-point martial law decree. The decree, proclaimed on Tuesday, will be administered by Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the Crown Prince and prime minister, for three months.

Sheikh Saad was to return to Kuwait yesterday, according to the governmental newspaper *Saoud al-Kuwait*, with a select team of ministers to direct the reorganisation of the battered emirate.

The estimated 500,000 Kuwaiti exiles anxious to go home were asked by the interior ministry yesterday to exercise patience. "We understand your desire to return as quickly as possible," said a ministry statement on Kuwait radio, monitored in Manama. It said a plan had been drawn up to enable an orderly return after the risk of mines has been eliminated and public services are functioning again.

The martial law decree allows Sheikh Saad to ban meetings, dissolve associations, censor the press, intercept telephone conversations, open mail and order expulsions. The measure will also postpone the reinstatement of parliament, which the emir suspended in 1986. Both the government and the opposition agreed at a conference in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in

mid-October that parliamentary life should return to Kuwait.

The government's postwar emergency powers could, furthermore, lead to the expulsion of non-Kuwaitis — notably Palestinians — accused of having collaborated with occupying Iraqi troops. Prior to the August 2 invasion, there were an estimated 350,000 Palestinian residents of the emirate.

Kuwait radio yesterday increased appeals to the population to refrain from harassing foreign residents, with one Islamic mullah emphasising the need for Kuwaitis to conform to the teachings of Islam.

The radio also appealed to Kuwaitis inside the country, many of whom are now armed with weapons seized from Iraqi soldiers, to obey orders and provide authorities with documents and proof to substantiate claims of mistreatment at the hands of occupying troops. Colonel Abu Fahd, a Kuwaiti resistance leader, used the radio to appeal to residents to stop shooting in the air in celebration and to stay away from munitions depots.

The government asked exiled technicians and engineers to volunteer to help in efforts to restore key public services. Kuwaiti diplomats in the region have said the government plans to subsidise food for the population for three months.



Donkey jacket: a resident of Kuwait City saddling his beast of burden with a provocative, if misspelt, post-liberation message to the Iraqi president

Blissful sleep falls with oil-laden rain

DAWN was breaking under a sky filled with ugly dark clouds when the men of the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars were summoned to a briefing about President Bush's announcement of a "suspension" of hostilities after 100 hours of the land war (Philip Jacobson writes).

In the background was the unmistakable sound of Challenger tanks warming up as the regiment's combat troops prepared to advance on yet another objective. With three hours left before the shooting was to stop, nobody was taking any chances and the 7th Armoured Brigade was deploying in full strength along one flank of what remained of the Iraqi army in Kuwait.

The queue for breakfast had barely formed up when a short burst of machinegun fire came from beyond our lines, followed immediately by a shot from a heavy gun. Happily, there was no further action, so perhaps another allied unit had been responsible. All the more reason to bear in mind the exhortations of Captain Arthur Currie who emphasised to the assembled soldiers that even with the end

Times correspondents travelling with the British army and the Royal Navy report how the services reacted to President Bush's announcement of the coalition ceasefire

in sight, it was essential to remain on high alert.

While we were eating fried egg and beans and waiting for more supplies of fuel and ammunition, the enemy had been living off scraps: prisoners have been taken with nothing but raw potatoes in their pockets. Others have told of going without water for days at a time, still more spoke of being reduced to a few rounds of bullets. The American field rations known as MRE — Meals Ready to Eat, a title some would dispute — strike them as luxury beyond belief.

The lowering clouds, which blotted out what should have been an almost full moon, were apparently caused by smoke from blazing Kuwait oil wells. When it rained, the drops were greasy and left a smudge. When the wind came in from the east, there was a distinct whiff of oil

in the air and goggles were soon covered with a thin film of dirt. Not that this prevented us from enjoying the almost forgotten pleasure of a few hours' solid sleep, the first, really, since we rolled through the breach into Iraq on Sunday.

I imagine we will all simply crumple on the spot quite soon but not until what everyone here calls "the business" has been fully accomplished.

Ship shape: We knew the war was over when leading steward Glyn Parry replaced the photograph of the Queen and Prince Philip on the wall of HMS London's ward room (Jamie Detmer writes). The silver plate and bowls, gifts from London Livery Guilds over the years, were also returned to their glass cabinets.

A couple of officers tried to blow the last post on the ship's prize

bugle, a gift from the guards' depot, and life slowly returned to normal. The ward room felt different, no longer bare with everything stowed away ready for action stations. Officers considered throwing an Eric, the code term used in London's ward room for a drinking party.

"It is all a bit unbelievable," said Surgeon-Lieutenant James Ross. After five months in the Gulf, the ship's doctor had forgotten his home telephone number. Some of the crew felt a sadness. Lieutenant-Commander Neil MacLaren said: "It is a bit of an anti-climax. It is like the end of school term. You are eager to go but the closer it comes you realise you won't be with your friends and you lose the camaraderie."

It has been a long, hard pull for HMS London. The ship has been continuously at sea now for eight weeks. Only a handful of the crew have experienced such a length of continuous time at sea before. The last hours of the war were greeted with a certain amount of disbelief. Could it be so easy?

(These reports are subject to allied military reporting restrictions.)

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UNITED STATES

Bush shuts out the world to savour sweetness of victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

MINUTES after his Oval Office victory declaration, an elated President Bush went back to his apartments. "Great day, isn't it?" he yelled at a photographer as he went. He called Marlin Fitzwater, his press secretary, to find out how his speech went down. Then he and his aides shut the world out and started their private celebration.

After nearly seven months of extraordinary pressure, it was the briefest of respite for Mr Bush. Before 7am yesterday, the president was back in the Oval Office, discussing with James Baker, the Secretary of State, his peace-building mission to the Gulf next week. Even in Mr Bush's moment of triumph, a whole new set of problems and challenges were emerging and another massive operation, this time political, not military, was under way.

On the diplomatic front, officials in the State Department said Mr Baker would be flying to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Egypt and Syria next week to promote his ideas for building a lasting Middle East peace. It includes resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a new regional security structure, arms control and economic development. He was also meeting Roland Dumas, the

French foreign minister, yesterday and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, today, and had telephoned Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, his Soviet counterpart, whose co-operation will be of critical importance in the coming days.

On the military front, as the White House awaited an Iraqi reply to its demands that all prisoners of war and Kuwaiti detainees be released and all minefields identified, administration officials were working on a series of urgent questions. These included how to disengage American forces as rapidly as possible, the creation of an Arab-led multi-national peace-keeping force, and the feasibility of establishing a "reciprocal" demilitarised buffer zone on the Iraq-Kuwait border. This could perhaps be modelled on the Golan Heights demilitarised zone between Israel and Syria, with aerial monitoring to ensure compliance.

American military officials reported that the ceasefire was generally holding in Kuwait and southern Iraq, though there had been several violations. In one instance Iraqi tanks had fired on troops trying to recover dead US airmen. The tanks were destroyed. ● NEW YORK: An elated

America savoured the fruits of victory yesterday, with the jubilation tempered only a little by a feeling that the country may have overestimated the power of its adversary (Charles Bremner writes).

And in a rush of relief across the country, citizens lavished praise on the president and military leaders who have scored so dazzling a victory and restored the "can do" spirit to America, after two decades of doubt inflicted by defeats from Vietnam to Lebanon. People smiled at each other in bus queues and cracked jokes in coffee shops. They flew the flag and in the big cities, young men greeted each other with "high-five" victory handshakes.

Again and again, Americans voiced a patriotic pride unheard for years, something quite different from the defensive boasting of the Reagan-Rambo era. Crawling from the rubble of last month's conventional wisdom — that America was in for a long and bloody war — the pundits have been struggling to diagnose the psychological fallout.

This is strongest for that near-middle-aged generation whose beliefs in America as a flawed and tainted power were forged in the 1960s and 1970s. The triumph was bitter sweet, USA Today said. "People are awash with emotion. Victory in the Middle East is satisfying but disturbing."

For some, the gloom and fear of war gave way almost too quickly to triumph. It was hard to recall the mood that swept the country only six weeks ago when war broke out and cars pulled to the roadside and strangers wept on the streets with repulsion, when businessmen stopped flying and Midwestern cities planned for gas attacks by Iraqi terror teams.

"I'm a bit ashamed about the way we over-reacted," one New Yorker told a local television station.

The pictures of pitiful Iraqi prisoners and yesterday's news that 100,000 Iraqis may have died helped reinforce the feeling that America had magnified the menace of Saddam. Jimmy Breslin, the veteran New York commentator, noted that nobody had turned out in Times Square, the traditional venue for the celebration of victories past. "This was a street for Lindbergh and MacArthur and Eisenhower, who were in big ones. It was not about to make Bush a champion because of a five-day fight against a small country who came with no planes," he said.

Both Mr Bessmertnykh and particularly Mr Ignatenko seemed keen yesterday to play down the signs of superpower tension that emerged from time to time during the Gulf conflict.



Still the hero: a young child displaying a poster of President Saddam Hussein at a pro-Iraqi rally in Amman, the Jordanian capital, yesterday

FRANCE Focus on peace by Paris

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

FRENCH officials heaped praise on the country's contingent in the Gulf yesterday for its valiant role in the liberation of Kuwait, and insisted that France intends to lose no time in pressing for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

French determination to work for a Middle East peace conference, an independent Palestinian state including part of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories, and a solution to Lebanon's problems was emphasised by Michel Vauzelle, the chairman of the national assembly's foreign affairs committee, after a meeting with Michel Rocard, the prime minister. France has always "marked out its difference and it will mark it out again," M Vauzelle said.

M Vauzelle cautioned against adopting a purely American approach to the Middle East problems. "The United Nations remains the ideal terrain for constructing peace."

Pierre Jose, the defence minister, said that France's pro-Arab foreign policy remained unchanged, in spite of the war.

Paris would work for one or several international peace conferences on the region, for the right of the Palestinian people to an independent homeland, as well as for continued assurances on the security of Israel.

Peter Stothard, page 14
Leading article, page 15

UNITED NATIONS

Triumph claimed for charter's principles

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE allied victory in the Gulf has filled the United Nations with a sense of pride and purpose. UN officials, diplomats and experts proclaimed a triumph for the principles of the organisation's founding charter.

"Collective security has been vindicated as a principle," said Brian Urquhart, the Briton who helped create the organisation and served it for 40 years. "This time it has been a tremendous cost with a big war. Next time we have to see if it can be vindicated without such cost."

Sir David Hannay, Britain's ambassador, described the allied victory as a "feather in the cap" for the United Nations. UN officials expressed relief that what once looked like a conflict that might discredit the organisation ended so swiftly, with the UN still at the centre of events.

Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, who had sought to distance the organisation from the violent

allied campaign, expressed "great satisfaction" with the ceasefire. "We hope it is the beginning of the end of this terrible tragedy," he said.

Attention turned to what still remained to be done, not merely in the coming days, but in the coming years. As security council diplomats discussed how to formalise the ceasefire, others began to examine the lessons that could be learnt from the crisis. The future UN role in so-called "enforcement actions" was the main subject of the recent debate.

Strictly speaking, the allied campaign to free Kuwait took place not under Article 42 of the United Nations Charter, which permits the security council to send troops into battle to suppress aggression. Rather, the council merely authorised Kuwait's allies to come to its defence, a right coalition nations already enjoyed under Article 51, which guarantees the right to "collective self-defence".

The compromise solution, which went beyond the council's Article 41 power to order sanctions and other peaceful means to enforce its decision but did not invoke Article 42, became known as "Article 41½". David Scheffer, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said the enforcement provisions of Chapter VII of the charter, which contains both Article 41 and 42, should be re-examined. "What we need to do now is to find a way that international law can be enforced with military means distributed more equitably," he said.

"The coalition that was cobbled together with shuffling diplomacy cannot be a model for the future," he said. "First, it places too great a burden on one country," the United States, to provide military manpower. Also, it identifies the United States as the world policeman." Mr Scheffer suggested that the United Nations try to breathe life back into Articles 43 to 49 of the charter, which call on members states to pledge troops to be placed under UN command.

"What we are talking about is not an enormous UN army," he said. "We are talking about what eventually would be a UN rapid deployment force — a limited number that could confront acts or threats of aggression. If that kind of force had been in existence on August 2, we might have been able to forestall the Iraqi invasion."

Mr Urquhart, now an associate at the Ford Foundation, agreed that the enforcement provisions of the charter needed to be looked at again, but expressed doubt about whether a standing UN force was feasible — though it had been when he helped draw up the charter in 1945. He, too, stressed the need for a preventive UN force, to be dispatched to hot spots before hostilities break out.

The United Nations could also develop its registry of arms shipments to achieve what is known as "arms transparency", limiting military build-ups, he said, noting that the Soviet Union has called for arms to be limited to defensive purposes. Mr Urquhart added that regional security organisations, like the Gulf Co-operation Council, could be strengthened by being more closely integrated into the UN.

ISRAEL

Nation stays on alert for missiles

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli authorities rejoiced at the allied victory over Iraq yesterday and told Israelis they could put away their gas masks and restore the "sealed rooms" in their homes to normal use after 40 days of wartime emergency. But officials are disappointed that President Saddam Hussein remains in power, albeit with his country in ruins and his military power practically destroyed.

General Dan Shomron, the chief of staff, said Israel remained on guard because Iraqi missiles aimed at Israel were still in place. General Nachman Shai, the chief army spokesman, said the situation was still "very fragile". Benjamin Netanyahu, the deputy foreign minister, welcomed the "glittering victory" of the coalition, but added: "As long as the allied armies remain on Iraqi soil, we must demand the destruction of the entire Iraqi missile system." He said he meant not only physical

destruction but also the placing of allied observers on Iraqi soil and continuing sanctions if Iraq failed to dismantle its Scud launchers. General Shomron said the fact that Iraq had not used chemical weapons against allied troops did not mean it would refrain from using them in the future against Israel.

In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians, nearly all of whom had placed their hopes in Saddam and had believed his boasts of military prowess, seemed dazed by the swift Iraqi collapse. Some refused to believe the high Iraqi casualties, the low allied casualties or the scale of the destruction of Iraq's army. Others openly regretted that Iraq had not used chemical weapons.

Yesterday's mood of celebration coincided with Purim, the annual Israeli carnival which commemorates Jewish survival at the hands of the ancient Persians.

New Iraq regime predicted by Fahd

Riyadh — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has predicted that a new leadership will emerge in Iraq and said his country sought good relations with Iran. In remarks carried yesterday by the Saudi Press Agency, the king said he was convinced that the new leadership will respect Sharia (Islamic law) and its Arab neighbours.

The comments came at a meeting on Wednesday with Sheikh Saad al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Crown Prince and prime minister. "I think that in a short period of time, men will emerge in Baghdad with a national and Islamic stature."

The Saudi monarch said that, under the circumstances in the region, coexistence with Iran is logical. He said the financial aid made available by Saudi Arabia to Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war had not been directed against Tehran. The aim had been to save Iraq, King Fahd said.

King Fahd also criticised certain unnamed Arab states that had backed Iraq in the Gulf war. "We reproach certain of our brothers for having favoured Iraq," he said. (AFP)

Ship shopping

Rome — Italy is negotiating to take over four frigates, built for Iraq as part of a 12-ship contract and now held in the port of La Spezia. In addition to the 2,400-ton, Lupo-class ships the contract stipulated in 1980, also includes six corvettes, a squadron support ship and a floating dock.

Murder motive

Tunis — A Dutch television station claimed that Robert-Jan Akkerman, the Dutch Embassy's first secretary responsible for Palestine Liberation Organisation contacts, was shot dead in Tunis by a pro-Iraqi group. Earlier the Tunisian government said that the killing was not politically motivated. (AP)

China welcome

Peking — China said that it welcomed the end of hostilities in the Gulf. Duan Jin, the foreign ministry spokesman, declined to rule out explicitly the possibility of China selling arms to Iraq in the future, saying only that it would strictly follow any United Nations resolutions. (Reuters)

Cash aid agreed

Tokyo — Japan's powerful lower house of parliament has approved a supplementary budget bill of \$4.6 billion to finance Tokyo's contribution to the allied forces campaign in the Gulf. The bill is expected to pass the upper house next week, allowing the aid to be disbursed by the end of March. (Reuters)

Mediation offer

Peking — Pakistan has said it wants to play a postwar mediating role in the Gulf. The security of the region should be the responsibility of the regional Muslim states, Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, said in Peking, adding that foreign forces should not be stationed in the region on a long-term basis. (AFP)

Shipping Times: The Times estimates: Australia \$2.35; Belgium & the 60; Canada \$2.75; Denmark \$1.00; France \$2.00; Germany \$2.00; Greece \$1.00; Hong Kong \$1.00; India \$1.00; Italy \$1.00; Japan \$1.00; Korea \$1.00; Kuwait \$1.00; Lebanon \$1.00; Libya \$1.00; Malta \$1.00; Mexico \$1.00; Morocco \$1.00; Netherlands \$1.00; New Zealand \$1.00; Norway \$1.00; Oman \$1.00; Pakistan \$1.00; Peru \$1.00; Philippines \$1.00; Portugal \$1.00; Qatar \$1.00; Saudi Arabia \$1.00; Singapore \$1.00; South Africa \$1.00; Spain \$1.00; Sweden \$1.00; Switzerland \$1.00; Taiwan \$1.00; Thailand \$1.00; Turkey \$1.00; USA \$1.00; USSR \$1.00; Venezuela \$1.00; Yugoslavia \$1.00.

SOVIET UNION

Gorbachev praised while military victory is ignored

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

SOVIET officials yesterday welcomed the ceasefire in the Gulf and called for a comprehensive regional security system to prevent similar wars in future. At the same time, they almost ignored the allied military victory, concentrating on the earlier diplomatic efforts to which, they emphasise, the Soviet Union and President Gorbachev had made a full contribution.

The chairman of the Soviet parliament, Anatoli Lukyanov, broke into the morning's deliberations to announce the ceasefire and pay tribute to Mr Gorbachev. The Soviet foreign minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, told a televised press conference that the Soviet Union welcomed the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of its independence. "We believe this is the first time the international community has displayed its common will to oppose the annexation of one state by another," he also paid tribute to the role of the Soviet leader.

The president's press spokesman, Vitali Ignatenko, said: "A great victory has been won by the whole world community, not only by those who fought with weapons on the battlefield." The head of the Communist party's international department, however, was more grudging, saying that the ceasefire could have been announced earlier.

While Soviet reaction was overwhelmingly positive, official Soviet accounts of events surrounding the ceasefire left much unclear. The confusion may have been deliberate to disguise Moscow's earlier diplomatic failure.

Mr Bessmertnykh said that he had had urgent consultations with James Baker, the American secretary of state, a few hours before President Bush announced the end of hostilities. He emphasised the urgency of holding a meeting of the UN Security Council.

Mr Bessmertnykh described a regional security system as the most important point in a post-war settlement. He said that discussions on such a system would continue with Mr Baker during his coming tour of the Middle East, suggesting the possibility of a meeting between the Soviet and American foreign ministers somewhere in the region.

Pursuing Moscow's earlier line that Iraq should not be humiliated in defeat, Mr Bessmertnykh said he was absolutely convinced that the region would not be fully secure unless Iraq had a significant role to play. The future of Soviet arms sales to Iraq should be reviewed in the context of armaments in the region as a whole.

The Soviet foreign minister so left doubt about Moscow's support for President Saddam Hussein. "We have a business with Iraq as a

GERMANY

Relieved Berlin has no regret for lost ambitions

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN BERLIN

OUTSIDE east Berlin's Humboldt University yesterday Frederick the Great had been divested of the placard reading "Onward to Baghdad, Old Fritz", and the banners demanding that Bonn politicians should be dispatched to the desert rather than soldiers no longer swayed drunkenly in the wind above Alexander von Humboldt's bronze head.

The mass of placards bearing slogans, demands and jokes, which had turned the neo-classical heart of the city into a Greenham-style camp, have gone, returning the centre to its usual staid gloom. A single lugubrious banner remained: "This time in the Gulf. And next time?" And the lamp-posts were bedecked with black ribbons to commemorate the dead. Berlin has taken the Gulf war

more seriously than any other German city, holding daily protests against the offensive which, in line with its political traditions, sought to change the mind by stopping the traffic.

The preoccupation with the Middle East has not been restricted to the student community. Even in the eastern working-class area of Hohenschönhausen, white flags fluttered from the skyscraper flagpoles with which every balcony-owning East German was provided to display the national colours on relevant holidays.

"We lived with the shadow of one war and the prospect of another all our lives here," one housewife said. "We just want peace now, to build up our country again."

Despite not having any troops involved, Germany has good reason to be relieved at the early end to hostilities. This, as Rudolf

Augstein remarked recently in *Der Spiegel*, was not going to be Germany's war. It came too early for the newly united country, leaving Bonn little option but to stand behind the fighting allies uttering words of encouragement and waving a chequebook — not behaviour guaranteed to increase popularity at home.

Both population and politicians were unprepared for so speedy a test of their behaviour on the international stage. Conservative commentators, such as the redoubtable Joachim Fest, see the Gulf war as having put an early end to German ambitions to play a leading role in world politics.

"When weighed, it was found to be too light," he concluded. A more kindly interpretation would be that the country had not yet regained its balance after the upheaval of the past year.

Until Christmas the indifference

of Germans, both east and west, to events outside their borders was unshakable. To challenge politicians and journalists that they were not spreading enough information about the conflict was to receive the reply: "1990 is the greatest year for Germany since 1871, don't begrudge us the right to celebrate." They unwittingly stored up trouble for themselves. With the psychological break of the new year, the populace awoke with a start to find the Gulf war just round the corner and fall into a state of mild hysteria — the dispatch of 18 Alpha jets to Turkey was treated like a major offensive.

East and west Germans do not yet have a unified political culture and their reactions to the war have differed. In the west the mass of demonstrators were "68ers" who still bring the ageing but unflagging radicalism of that period to bear on federal politics. In the east the

voices of protest have been readier: elderly communists doggedly railing against American imperialism and, to everyone's surprise, the young, thought to have been inoculated against politics for life by an early overdose of Marxism.

Germany's claim that its basic law prohibited the dispatch of troops outside the Nato area was a bone of contention with the allies but a blessing on the domestic scene. With the armed forces facing the difficult task of integrating former enemies into one, motivating them to fight readily in the Middle East would have been a near-impossibility.

Until the end the opposition was less to the war itself than to German involvement in it, a clear indication, and perhaps a source of relief for the rest of Europe, that the population is not yet ready for the sight of the united German finger on the trigger.



Ashdown: catapulted into the limelight

All party leaders gain in stature from war

THE Gulf war has seen a remarkable phenomenon in British politics: as the congratulations all round in the Commons yesterday testified, all three national party leaders have enhanced their public standing.

Inheriting Margaret Thatcher's war, John Major has become known by the wider public far more swiftly than his cool personality might otherwise have contrived. By common consent across the parties, he has

achieved a blend of resolution without warmongering.

The war has boosted his own self-confidence as a new prime minister and his authority in the country. The benefit for his party has been obvious. At the end of 1990, the honeymoon effect of his arrival in the leadership was fading and Labour was closing the opinion poll gap. Since the war began it has widened once more to an average of 4-5 per cent.

More than that, Mr Major

showed the new regard for John Major, Neil Kinnock and Paddy Ashdown, Robin Oakley, Political Editor, writes

has used the war to enhance his international image. He struck up an easy relationship with President Bush, which has been cemented since in regular telephone conversations: the special relationship is flourishing

again. Perhaps, the most obvious comment on Mr Major's war is that no one any more even raises the subject of backseat drivers.

Neil Kinnock has had, in one sense, a harder task than Mr Major, seeking to keep

united a party containing 50 or so MPs with sincere doubts about the war. He lost five frontbenchers in the process but has come through with his party intact and without the opinion poll gap widening beyond recall. Opponents who scoffed before now concede that he could be prime ministerial material.

For the Liberal Democrats, Paddy Ashdown has also won new regard. Rarely off the airwaves, his energy

has enabled him to make a breakthrough to public attention which most minority party leaders have to wait for an election to achieve.

Tom King, the defence secretary, the least devoted of ministers if not the most inclined to volunteer information, has shown himself to be a soldier's politician. In his plain man's style, he has been a reassuring public face of the war cabinet. He, too, has grown in authority at the despatch box.



Kinnock: seen as prime ministerial material

THE COMMONS

Major says Iraqis must lose weapons of mass destruction

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

IRAQ must be made to dismantle all its weapons of mass destruction under international supervision, John Major told the Commons yesterday as he hailed the outcome of the Gulf war as "a victory for what is right".

The prime minister declared that the international community would continue to treat Iraq as a pariah so long as President Saddam Hussein remained in power. He predicted that Saddam's own people would deal with him and added that nobody would cry if that happened.

Mr Major, who had spoken earlier of one of the most remarkable military campaigns of all time, pledged that troops would be brought home as quickly as possible and, "as far as is practicable", those who had fought would be among the first. However, there would be much for the forces to do in the Gulf for the next few days. Whitehall sources referred later to Mr Major's remarks about the Iraqi people toppling Saddam, saying there were increasing signs of dissent among them.

Politicians from all parties congratulated the allied forces on the victory. Mr Major praised the leadership of President Bush throughout the campaign and the role of Margaret Thatcher who first sent British forces to the Gulf. To cheer Mr Major said that Mrs Thatcher's resolution and steadfastness from the outset played a key part in rallying international support for Kuwait.

Mrs Thatcher, in her first intervention in the Commons since she resigned as prime minister, congratulated Mr Major and his colleagues "on this victory day when Kuwait has been liberated".

She praised the generals in the Gulf and the "unfaltering leadership" of President Bush. "The victories of peace will take longer than the battles of war, but the chances of successful negotiations are now greater than they have ever been and we must persist until all nations in this region can dwell in peace and safety."

In a statement to the House, Mr Major said that the coalition would be free to resume military operations if Iraq renewed attacks on coalition forces, or Scud attacks on any country. Mr Major said that 60,000 Iraqi prisoners had been documented so far, "with many thousands more yet to be recorded". He explained that the coalition had decided to suspend military operations as soon as it became clear Kuwait was free and Iraq's army had been comprehensively defeated. At that time,

42 Iraqi divisions had been effectively destroyed. "We took the view immediately that there could be no question of continuing to attack an army which had been defeated, notwithstanding the lack of a surrender by their commanders."

At the latest count, coalition forces had captured, destroyed or disabled more than 3,700 Iraqi tanks out of 4,200 in the region, more than 2,100 artillery pieces out of 3,100, and more than 1,800 armoured vehicles, out of 2,800. Mr Major said the coalition had won an "historic and comprehensive victory, which has destroyed Iraq's offensive military capability". He added: "We are thankful that it has been achieved with very few coalition casualties indeed, though our hearts go out to the families of all those who have lost their lives, of every nationality." The latest information was that 16 Britons had been killed in action, seven had been seriously injured, and 12 aircrew were missing.

Neil Kinnock, whose role during the confrontation was also praised by the prime minister, said the determination to liberate Kuwait had been completely vindicated by the horrific evidence of atrocities committed there while the country was under Iraqi occupation. Mr Kinnock said: "It is now essential to work to secure the removal of all weapons of mass destruction and the capacity to make them from the region." He also

called for strict international control on arms sales to countries in the area.

Mr Kinnock said the international community and the United Nations had gained strength and authority to work for the prevention of aggression and promotion of peace everywhere.

Earlier Mr Major said that the war had been won and now they had to seek a durable peace. During questions Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said that the war had been built on the basis of UN resolutions and the peace must be built by the UN as well. Mr Major said: "It is Arab land and it is really an Arab peace that is necessary." Later it was made plain that he was not ruling out UN involvement but hoped that proposals would come forward from the Arab nations.

Pat Duffy, the former Labour defence minister, praised Mrs Thatcher, Mr Major and Mr Kinnock. "None of them during the last six months wavered under pressure."

In a clear reference to Labour MPs who opposed the war, he said: "Like President Bush, who had doubters and faint hearts on Capitol Hill, we had them here, but happily here as there they were routed." His remark infuriated Labour leftwingers, including Tony Benn, who remonstrated with him.

It emerged later that although some kind of commemoration will mark the allied triumph, it is unlikely to be in the form of a victory parade.



Morning glory: Sir David Craig, Chief of Defence Staff, left, arriving with Tom King for the war cabinet meeting at Downing Street yesterday



Bubbling over: Melissa Cordingley, left, wife of the Desert Rats commander, with Fee Sharples, Maggie Denaro, and Gay Rogers at Fallingbowl

FORCES FAMILIES

Champagne flows as wives plan homecoming parties

By RAY CLANCY

CHAMPAGNE corks were popping yesterday as the families of British servicemen and women celebrated the war's end. Tears of joy mingled with excitement and relief, and the planning for homecoming parties got underway.

However, there was sadness, too, for the relatives of soldiers who had died. "We feel for the families of the nine who were killed by friendly fire. It was so unfair," said Cherry Sutherland of Colyton, Devon, whose son Ian, aged 21, is a tank mechanic in the Gulf. With her husband, Graeme, she set up a support group for service families in her area.

Laughter replaced worry lines on the faces of army wives at the 7th Armoured Brigade headquarters in Fallingbowl, Germany. "I feel elated; words can't really describe it. I know it has happened but it is hard to believe that it's finally over," said Valerie Wavell, whose husband Keith is a corporal serving with the 1st Staffordshire Regiment. She also expressed her sadness for those who had died. Kim Elia, whose husband Adrian, aged 23, is a corporal with the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars, predicted a giant party when the men return. "We will have a big regimental party and all the Christmas parties they missed because

they were in the Gulf. It will be some reunion."

Many wives celebrated at the base's Heather Club. "As I drove to work I was beating the horn all the way. I was so overjoyed. I thought the German police might stop me, but I didn't care," said Mary Campbell, whose husband Harry is a corporal in the Scots Dragoons. Their son Richard, aged 20, is also in the regiment. Felicia Sharples, wife of Lieutenant John Sharples of the Scots Dragoons, cuddled

her daughter Sarah, aged five, as she described the party atmosphere: "It has been a day for emotions. It is like every holiday rolled into one."

The founder of Gulf Mums, Sue Thomas, of Swansea, West Glamorgan, who started her support group last year after her son Richard, aged 20, serving with the Desert Rats, wrote home to say he was missing home comforts, said: "When I get Richard home I'm just going to smother him with love, hugs and kisses."

There will be an awful lot of that going on in homes all over the country.

Tracey Anderson, of Blandford, Dorset, whose husband Philip left for the Gulf a few days after their wedding last August, said she was now planning a proper honeymoon.

Not only families were celebrating. In many towns taxis hooped their horns in celebration. At the Ritz in London champagne bottles were opened to mark the war's successful end.

ROYAL MESSAGE

Queen praises British role

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Queen yesterday sent messages of congratulation to Tom King, the defence secretary, Lieutenant-General Sir Peter de la Billière, commander of British forces in the Gulf, and the Emir of Kuwait on the successful liberation campaign.

Buckingham Palace said that the Queen's personal message to the Emir was one of "congratulation, best wishes and support". Her message to the defence secretary read: "I am delighted by the successful completion of the military campaign in the Gulf. The armed forces have done us

proud. I should be grateful if you would pass my congratulations to all those here at home who, like you, have worked unremittingly to ensure this success. At the same time, my deep sympathy goes to the families of those who died or are missing, and to their wounded comrades."

The Queen's message will be passed on to all Ministry of Defence staff involved in the Gulf operation, and to outside civilians such as armaments manufacturers, who provided essential back-up and supplies.

In a message to General de

la Billière, the Queen said: "I was delighted by the splendid news this morning. The British forces have made a crucial contribution by sea, land and in the air to the successful completion of the allied campaign. My congratulations go to you and all under your command upon a job well done."

The Queen's message to the British commander in the Gulf will be passed down to every serviceman, as was the message of encouragement she sent on Saturday night as the allied land forces were about to move against the enemy.

Pride and sadness among relatives

FROM IAN MURRAY IN MUNSTER

A BITTER-sweet atmosphere hung over York Barracks yesterday as the families and friends of the men who had fought in the Gulf celebrated victory and mourned their dead.

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Syms, the station commander, summed up the mood as one of "proud relief". There was, he said, great pride in the decisive, speedy and successful conclusion, along with relief that there had been so few casualties. Everyone, however, had been shocked and saddened by the "friendly fire" incident in which men from Munster had died.

Lance Corporal Keith Goodwin, of the Queen's Own Highlanders, who knew the dead men well, said: "It should be a good day, but there is just this dark cloud hanging over everything." He was in the Gulf until a week ago and said that his troops were apprehensive about the Americans. "The boys used to say they were more scared of the Americans than the Iraqis."

He said that the troops were meticulous about painting the agreed recognition V sign in white on their vehicles but it would not have shown in the dark.

"At first I was angry at what had happened, but I can see it was really only an accident. There is only one person to blame for this and he is sitting in Baghdad."

Ann Anderson, whose husband was serving with the three men who died, said: "I was devastated at the news of the death. I won't feel happy until they are all home. Anything can still happen."

Captain Iain McDonald, the Highlanders' family officer, joined the regiment as a private at the same time as the father of John Lang, one of the three who died. "We are a close-knit family regiment and we feel this particularly distressingly," he said. "But as a regiment we are proud of them. They fulfilled their duty in a very professional way."

Eileen Murphy, a former cook-housekeeper to the Princess Royal and now the wife of a Royal Artillery sergeant major, had been picked as one of those suitable for telling wives if their husbands had been killed. At midnight she said she had been called out by one wife who had needed her shoulder to cry on. She awoke to be told of the ceasefire. "We just hugged each other... We have all grown so close to each other that only we can know how we feel."

TRAVEL

Airlines optimistic on bookings front

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE travel industry was last night anticipating a surge in bookings for both business flights and holidays after the end of fighting in the Gulf.

First off the mark was the British Tourist Authority which announced the launch of a campaign, called "Britain's Great", to persuade people to take a break after the war by visiting holiday spots in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. "It is time to think about having some fun again," said William Davis, chairman of BTA.

Airlines and tour operators are also persuading businessmen to reinstate meetings they cancelled because of the war. "We are feeling very relieved and believe that confidence will come back quite quickly," said Rosemary Astles of Thomson Holidays. "With inflation falling and the prospect of further cuts in both interest rates and mortgage

MoD names three more British dead

By RAY CLANCY

SOME families celebrated the end of the Gulf war yesterday, others mourned the loss of their loved ones. Three more of the dead were named last night by the defence ministry.

Lance Corporal Francis Carrington Evans, aged 25, of Clywd, Wales, Driver Jason Patrick McFadden, aged 19, of Coventry, and Private Carl Mout, aged 22, of Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, were among the total of 16 British servicemen who died in the land battle.

Ann Burgess, whose son Simon, one of the youngest airmen lost, was missing in the first week, said she was anxious, worried and elated at the same time.

The family of Flight Lieutenant John Peters, who was paraded on Iraqi television as a hostage, said they were glad the war was over but were desperately hoping for news of their son. "It has been a very difficult time for

us and not knowing if he is all right is the worst part," said Kay Peters of Petersfield, Hampshire.

The grandfather of one of the teenagers who died when an American A10 Thunderbolt mistakenly bombed two Warrior infantry fighting vehicles called for a full examination of the incident. John Lang, of Bailey, West Yorkshire, whose grandson, also John Lang, was killed in the accident, accused the US airmen of being "trigger-happy".

However, Clive Satchell, of East Sussex, whose brother Stephen died, said he did not blame the American pilots for the accident. "There was a big battle on and a mistake was made. The whole family has discussed this and we have decided the pilot cannot be held responsible," he said. The soldier's father, Terry Satchell, said: "We are shattered. We have lost our son and are heartbroken."

Mei Gillespie, of Tyne-mouth, whose son Richard,

aged 19, also died in the incident, said it was difficult to forgive. "You take a pride in your lad fighting for his country but you don't expect him to be killed by his own side. It is very difficult for us to accept," he said.

Elaine and Patrick McFadden whose son Jason died in action, said they did not feel bitter. "Jason loved

the army. It was what he always wanted to do. He was a true professional," said Mr McFadden.

The International Red Cross has so far been refused access to POWs in Iraq and many families are still anxious for news. "We are still very tense. We hope to hear something soon. It is a very anxious time," said Mrs

Burgess of Humberston, near Grimsby.

Servicemen returning from the Gulf may suffer psychological and emotional problems for years to come, in spite of their military success, Prince Michael of Kent, president of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, said yesterday (Alan Hamilton writes).

The prince said that once the euphoria of victory had died down, many members of the British force could suffer the delayed after-effects of battle, once known as shell-shock, on their return home. "We can expect cases of post-traumatic stress disorder," the prince said. "The onus of SSAFA is going to be on the rehabilitation of the soldiers."

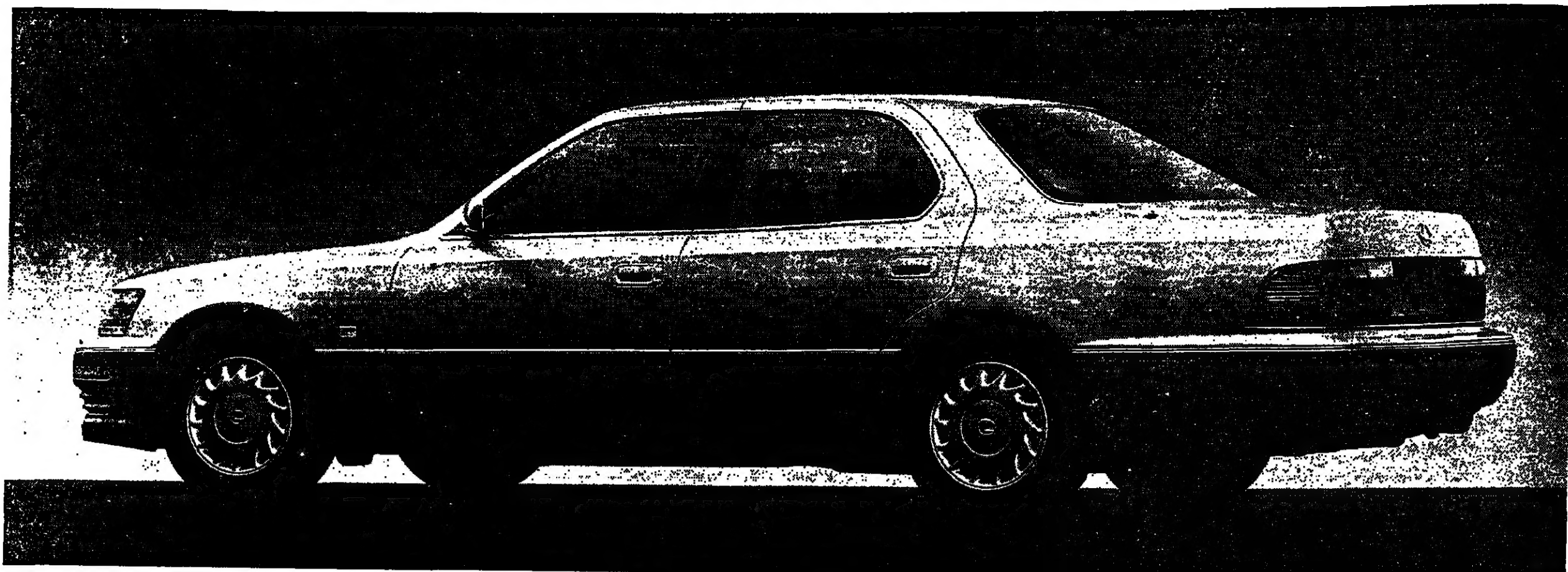
SSAFA officials said yesterday that its representatives were already in touch with the families of the British servicemen killed in action to offer whatever financial and moral support they could.



Francis Evans, aged 25, from Clywd



Jason McFadden, aged 19, from Coventry



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The Sunday Telegraph

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T1/3



Baker clarifies licence rules

Television viewers who claim never to watch BBC are still required to have a television licence, Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said in a Commons written answer. Regulations are to be put before Parliament to make the position clear. Doubts about the law on licences have arisen after recent changes in international regulations.

The regulations will make clear that the licence fee is a levy on all viewers intended to fund the BBC. The government will be considering the long-term future of the licence fee during the review that will precede the expiry of the BBC charter at the end of 1996.

Savings praise

Tessa, the tax-exempt saving schemes announced by John Major in the Budget last year, have got off to a good start, Gillian Shephard, Treasury minister of state, said in the Commons. They were playing a part in restoring the savings habit. The savings ratio was now back to 8.8 per cent of disposable income.

Heritage cash

The government is to give £4 million to the Ironbridge Heritage Foundation when the historical and archaeological assets in the Shropshire town are transferred to it from Telford Development Corporation.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be: Monday: Motion on the continuation of the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Tuesday: New Roads and Streetworks bill, second reading.

Wednesday: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) bill, remaining stages.

Thursday: Debate on the Cullen report on the Piper Alpha oil rig disaster.

Friday: Debate on private member's motion on lessorship reform.

The main business in the Lords will be: Monday: Debate on EC railway policy.

Tuesday: Motion to renew Prevention of Terrorism Act. Community Charges (Substitute Setting) bill, committee.

Wednesday: Debates on transport in the Southeast, on refugees and on the Gulf.

Thursday: Disability allowance bill, committee, first day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Private members' bills: Estate Agents (Property Misdescriptions) bill and Criminal Procedure (Insanity and Unfitness to Plead) bill, second readings.

MPs criticise King for not revealing submarine decision

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TOM King, the defence secretary, was criticised yesterday for not telling MPs of his decision to decommission the two nuclear submarines Warpsite and Churchill.

The Commons defence committee disclosed that the submarines were undergoing £170 million refits when the ministry decided to scrap them last autumn as part of the defence cuts. The committee report called for an explanation by a defence minister to Parliament of why the refit of the Churchill at Rosyth dockyard was allowed to continue as normal during the first seven months of last year.

The defence committee, which is chaired by the Conservative MP Michael Bates, did not question the decision to decommission the submarines, but it criticised the failure to tell MPs. The report said: "Parliament is owed an explanation as to why the Churchill refit seems to have proceeded as normal through the first seven months of 1990. While we have some sympathy for the difficult decision that the ministry has made, we have none for the manner in which it has been presented."

Although the retirement of the nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine Conqueror

was announced last July, the decisions to decommission Warpsite and Churchill were disclosed only when ministers were forced to answer questions from MPs prompted by press reports at the end of October, the report added. The ministry told the committee that it was not normal practice to announce every decommissioning.

The report said: "Where a decision to decommission represents a significant change in policy, and involves expenditure of the order of £170 million, it is clearly of considerable concern to the House and indeed the country."

"The ministry was remiss in not announcing the decision to decommission Warpsite and Churchill, if not at once, at least as soon as the House returned in October 1990. We recommend that in future all decisions to decommission ships or disband units be reported to Parliament as soon as practicable."

The Tory-dominated committee repeated its concern that decommissioned nuclear submarines are left afloat and suggests talks with the French government to collaborate on finding a safe way of disposing of them. "For both countries the disposal of nuclear submarines is set to be a problem of increasing urgency."

The report also detailed the "unhappy story" of HMS Challenger, the seabed operations vessel that came into service in 1984 at a cost of £211 million. The ship is being sold as part of the Royal Navy's short-term savings and the ministry has given the committee the likely price.

But the MPs concluded: "These give us good reason to fear that any return to the taxpayer for the heavy expenditure in procuring Challenger will be negligible."

The Royal Navy hopes to charter the ship or a similar vessel if necessary to recover, for instance, a disabled submarine or lost nuclear mater-

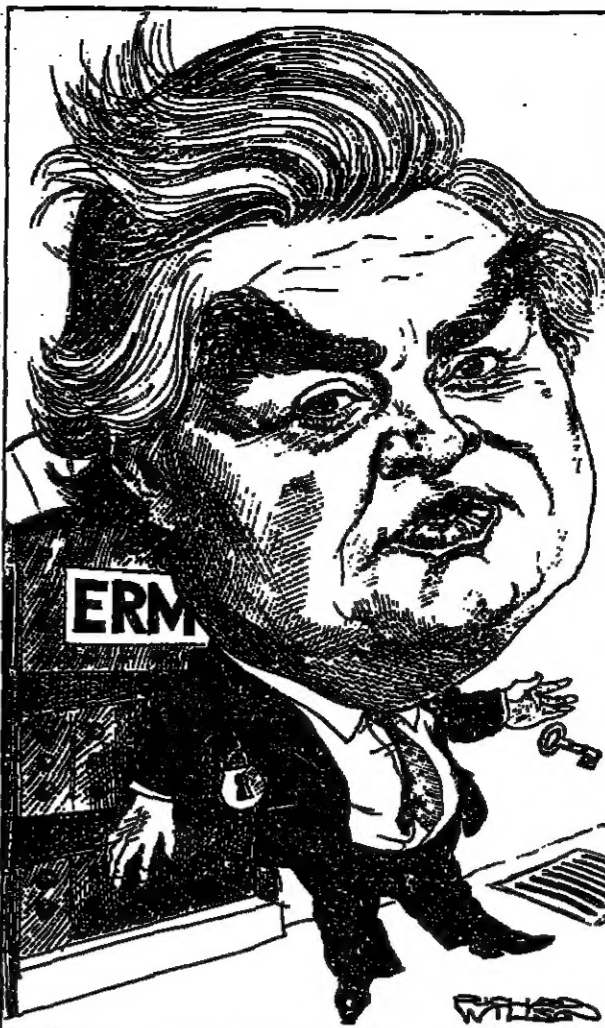
ial. During her service, Challenger was used only twice, to recover toxic chemicals off Guernsey and to salvage a Harrier jet in Lyme Bay.

The committee wants the ministry to assure Parliament that such seabed operations can be carried out in future by civilian contractors under supervision. It questioned the ministry's decision to offer the Challenger to foreign buyers, that, it said, could rule out the chance of chartering her back.

The sale also effectively ends the Towed Unmanned Submersible (Tuna) programme that trails equipment at depths of more than 2,000 metres and can be operated only from Challenger.

House of Commons defence committee first report: Royal Navy short-term savings: HMS Challenger and Decommissioning of Nuclear Fleet Submarines (Stationery Office, £9.40)

□ The National Audit Office, in a report today, questions whether the £1.4 billion annual budget for defence projects carried out with other countries brings savings. The development costs of collaborative projects such as the Tornado aircraft, Lynx helicopter and the army's multiple-launch rocket system tend to be higher than national projects, it finds.



Lamont: comments aimed at calming City speculation

Lamont damps down hopes of more rate cuts

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PETER MULLIGAN

NORMAN Lamont acted swiftly yesterday to damp down hopes that the latest half-point cut in base rates pointed to further cuts soon.

The Chancellor told MPs in the Commons that they should not entertain exaggerated ideas about interest rates and emphasised the government's commitment to reducing inflation.

Mr Lamont's comments were aimed at calming City speculation that the Budget on March 19 will coincide with a further fall in base rates to 12½ or 12 per cent. They were also calculated to cool the bout of election fever that has gripped Westminster with the ending of the Gulf war.

However, a hint from Gillian Shephard, a junior Treasury minister, that the Budget may contain a downward revision of the autumn statement forecast of 5.5 per cent inflation by the end of the year encouraged backbenchers

to expect a brighter economic outlook.

The Chancellor's remarks at Treasury questions came as the pound held steady on the currency markets and shares surged by about 30 points on a wave of optimism generated by the Gulf victory and hopes of cheaper borrowing.

Mr Lamont said: "I am not going to take any risks either with the exchange rate or with inflation, which must be the main objective of policy. We have too high a rate of inflation vis-à-vis our European competitors. I am determined we should get it down and get it down quickly."

The interest rate reduction, the second in February, took some of the steam out of Opposition and backbench Conservative pressure for the Chancellor to ease the burden on home-owners and businesses. However, he still came under fire from Tory MPs sceptical of British membership of the European exchange-rate mechanism or worried about the effects of the recession.

Nicholas Budgen, Tory MP for Waverhampton South West, told ministers that the high level of the savings ratio pointed towards the need for a further base rate cut.

Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Tory MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, said that a realignment of sterling and other European currencies against the German mark within the ERM would permit more sensible lending rates.

Football must improve grounds

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer may be prepared to extend government help for football league clubs to improve their grounds if the clubs are prepared to do more. That was made clear to MPs yesterday by Gillian Shephard, Treasury minister of state.

During question time she said that the cut in pools

betting duty announced in the Budget last year might be extended once it was clear that football was contributing to a significant degree from its own resources.

The pools betting duty was reduced by from 42.5 per cent to 40 per cent last year for a limited period, with the money saved by the betting industry being passed to the

clubs to help them to build all-seater stadiums in line with the Taylor inquiry recommendations after Hillsborough.

Mrs Shephard said that Norman Lamont had indicated that he would be prepared to decide on extending the period of the reduction once it was clear that the clubs were making a significant contribution to the work.



Bates: called on defence ministry to explain

Major promises EC enthusiasm

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major said yesterday that Britain intends to play a constructive role in shaping the future of Europe by focusing on detailed reforms rather than impractical dreams.

In the foreword to the government's latest EC white paper he signalled a departure from Margaret Thatcher's critical rhetoric by insisting that Britain should be right at the heart of the European Community, working closely with other member states. It is the first time the government's white paper, published every six months, has included a foreword from the prime minister of the day.

Mr Major said: "I believe it is in our national self-interest to help shape the future Europe and to do so with enthusiasm". However, he dismissed attempts from Brussels to erode national decision-making and said that a strong EC needed to be balanced by respect for national institutions.

The inter-governmental

conference could reach agreement on economic policy acceptable to everyone, he added, while repeating his opposition to the imposition of a single currency. The prime minister's "hard-ecu" proposal could develop into a single currency if peoples, governments and markets wanted it, he added. "But being a good European does not mean accepting every proposal from the Community. We shall press for what we believe to be right and not be deterred from saying what we believe to be wrong."

"The debate that is beginning now will shape the future of Europe into the next century. I want Britain to be at the centre of that debate as an enthusiastic participant, leading the Community in the directions in which we want it to go."

Mr Major's priorities are the completion of the post-1992 single market, reform of the common agricultural policy, increasing competition in Europe's industries, widening choice for citizens and giving Europe a stronger voice in the world. He also appealed for agreement at the Uruguay round of Gatt trade talks, warning member states that there would be no winners if the talks collapsed.

Developments in the European Community: July to December 1990 (Stationery Office, £9.20).

Aid pledge for Wales

AN ATTEMPT to extend the information technology corridor along the M4 into Wales was announced by David Hunt, Welsh secretary, in the annual St David's Day debate (John Winder writes).

He said that the Welsh development agency would launch the initiative aimed at capturing high technology companies for Wales.

Yesterday he approved the agency's 1991-2 £71.6 million property development programme. Spending on Landscape Wales and Urban Development Wales will rise by £4 million and £3 million, respectively.

An additional £8 million would enable training enterprise councils to ensure that employment training continued to play its part.

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Police seize nine children after ritual abuse claims

By KERRY GILL

NINE children from four families on Orkney have been seized from their beds and taken into care after allegations of ritualistic abuse. Social workers aided by police flown in from the mainland carried out the dawn raid.

Police questioned the local Church of Scotland minister, his wife and the children's parents for several hours in Kirkwall, the Orkney capital, it emerged yesterday. Officers searched the minister's house and church for more than five hours before removing paperwork and vestments. The minister, with other families, had been trying to help a family whose children were taken into care earlier. None of the children seized lives with or was in the minister's care.

The children, five girls and four boys aged between eight and 15, were taken at the same time. Police said that they would be medically examined. The action brings the number of children taken into care on the islands to 17 since November, arousing disquiet in the small community.

A police spokesman said: "A joint investigation has been carried out by officers of Northern Constabulary and Orkney social work department into alleged offences against children. A number of adults were interviewed and a report is to be sent to the pro-

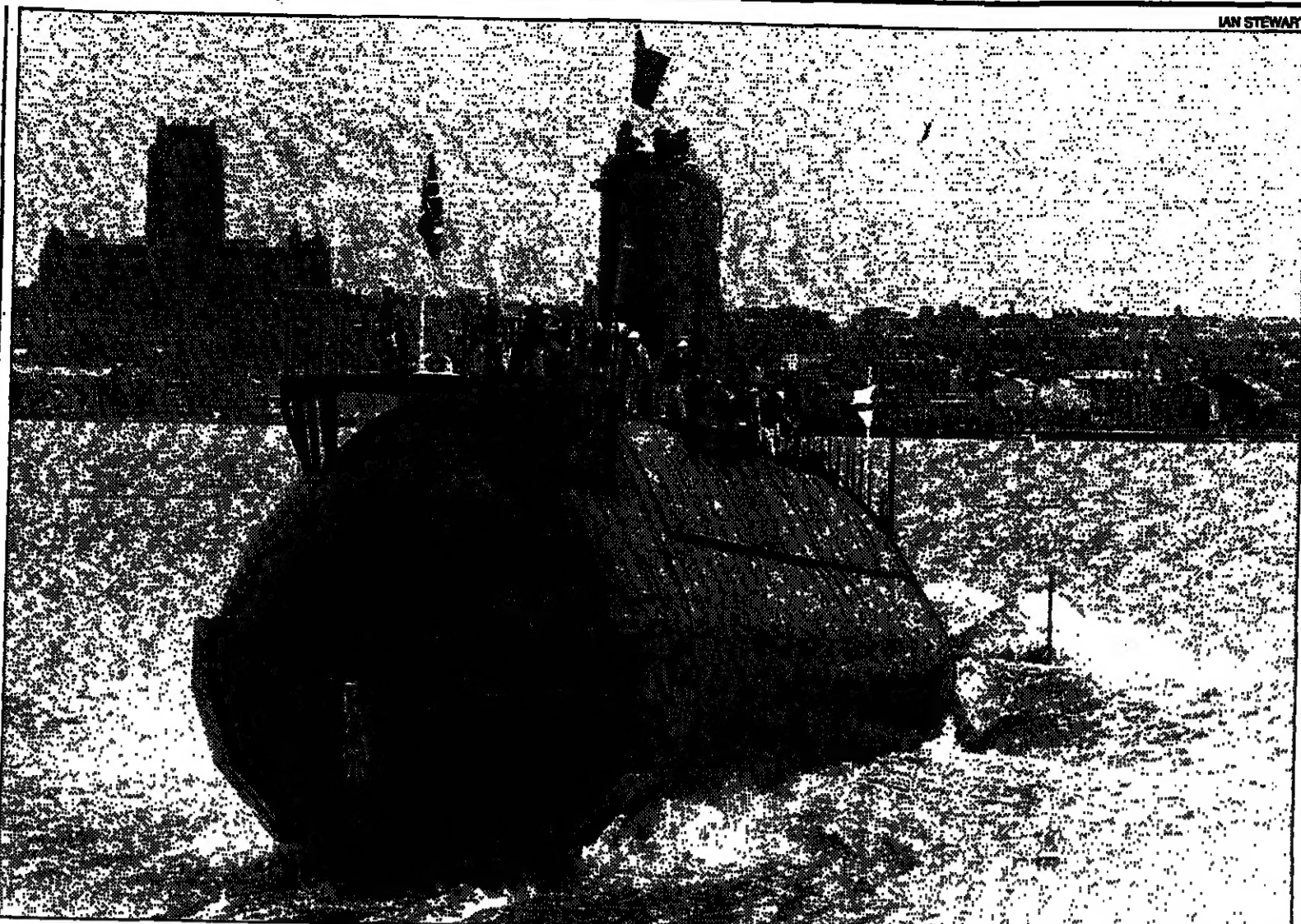
curator fiscal." No one from the social work department was available to comment.

Yesterday, one of the parents said she believed that the social workers had taken her two sons, aged 11 and 15, because she and others had supported another family whose children had been taken into care. "We were woken at 7am and the children were snatched from their beds. All parents were questioned at the police station separately," she said.

"What it seems they are trying to establish is that there has been ritual abuse at or near our farm. They said the children were being taken to a place of safety because of lewd and libidinous acts that were going on. The police searched our house from top to bottom."

The Rev Morris McKenzie, aged 63, the church minister, said that police searched his house and church at St Margaret's Hope because they thought he was guilty of "lewd and libidinous" behaviour.

"They took away papers and some of my vestments. It has come as a terrible shock," he said. The police then questioned Mr and Mrs McKenzie from 1pm to 4.15pm. "My wife has taken it very well but we are very tired and worn out. Four police came to the house. I was absolutely shocked," Mr McKenzie said.



Splashdown: the Royal Navy submarine Ursula taking to the water during her launch at Merseyside yesterday. The 70-metre, 2,400-tonne Ursula is the second of three Upholder-class multi-role boats constructed by Cammell Laird Shipbuilders to replace Oberon-class vessels

Fashion boosts sales of sportswear

By ROSEY YOUNG

THE British public are not as sporting as they look. According to the market research organisation Mintel, one third of women and nearly a fifth of men never take part in any sport, but sales of sports goods have doubled from £1.2 billion in 1984 to £2.4 billion last year.

Sports clothes and shoes are now every-day wear even for television addicts, Mintel says. Sports clothes, on which we spent £1.16 billion, are as likely to be worn to the supermarket.

Mintel found that swimming, practised by more than 15 million, is the most popular sports activity. Sales of swimwear were valued at £130 million last year.

The most valuable sport in market terms was golf, which engendered £168 million of spending on equipment.

Mintel values our national sport, cricket, at only £19 million. Football is worth £162 million in sales of retail goods.

The Sports Market (Mintel, 18-19 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HE, £750)

Parental grant aid adjusted

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS' contributions towards student grants for 1991-92 will be adjusted in line with average earnings, reducing the proportion of grant that they are expected to pay.

With mandatory grants frozen at £2,845 for students living away from home in London and at £2,265 elsewhere, pay rises would otherwise have left most parents to meet a higher proportion of students' costs. The new scales mean that contributions will not start until parents have residual income of £12,650, up from £11,500 this year.

Residual income is gross income less allowances for interest payments and certain other sums.

Parental contributions for 1991-2

Residual Income	Contributions Scale 2	Scale 1
£12,650	45	60
£13,000	79	105
£14,000	176	235
£15,000	274	365
£20,000	512	1,213
£25,000	1,634	2,718
£30,000	2,489	3,515
£35,000	3,344	4,451
£40,000	4,199	5,587
£45,000	5,053	6,800
£50,000	5,908	8,000

Scale 2 applies to students who first entered higher education in or after 1988. Scale 1 for earlier starters. The maximum contribution is unchanged, at £5,000, where parents have three or more children in higher education.

Over-35 mothers reassured

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN who delay child-bearing until they are at least 35 years old are not increasing the risks of their baby having birth defects, according to a study published today.

The results of research involving almost 27,000 children in Canada should be reassuring to women who decide not to start a family until relatively late in life, doctors say in *The Lancet*.

The percentage of women aged 35 or more giving birth has risen by more than 50 per cent in Canada in the past 20 years, with comparable increases in Britain and the US. The project excluded children with genetic defects but looked at 43 categories of other conditions, including spina bifida, heart abnormalities, cleft palates, kidney disorders and limb deformities.

The *Lancet* also reported the case of a woman aged 32 who sought treatment to help her have a baby. She was a virgin who preferred to become pregnant by scientific means rather than through sexual intercourse.

□ An increase of HIV infection among homosexual men despite safe sex campaigns is predicted by specialists in the *British Medical Journal*.

□ The clot-dissolving drug anistreplase, which can save the lives of up to half the victims of heart attacks, is to be tested on 20,000 patients.

Redgrave says MI5 put bug in study

By JOE JOSEPH

VANESSA Redgrave yesterday turned her sights away from the "imperialist" forces of America and Britain in the Gulf and trained them on MI5, which she suspects of having planted a listening device in her home.

The actress found the device three weeks ago in an electrical extension socket in the study of her house in Clapham, one of two London addresses she shares with her brother Corin. Ms Redgrave, who has said that her opinions have lost her work, suspects Britain's security services of listening in to her conversations with actor friends and left-wing political allies.

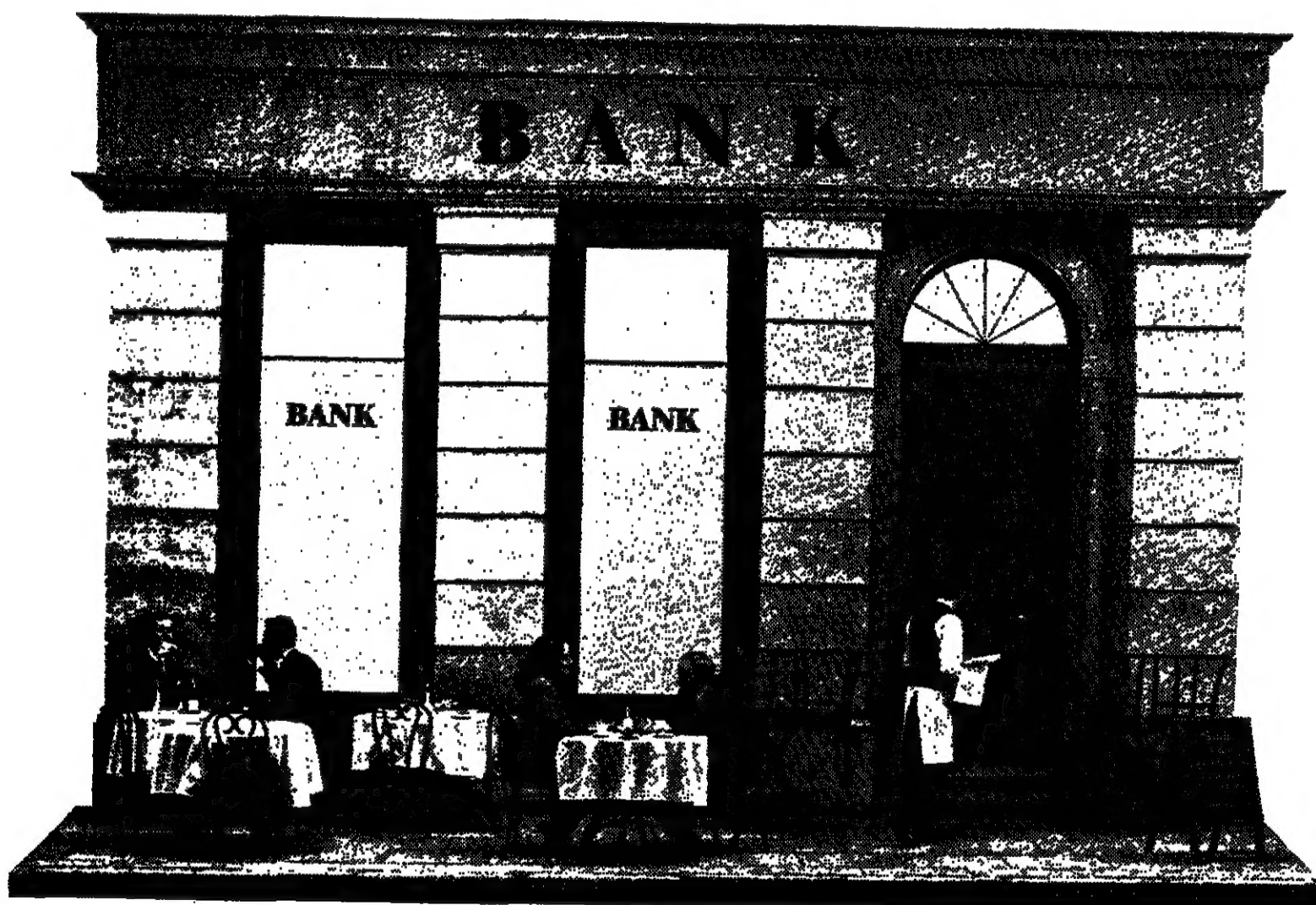
She is taking the case, through the National Council for Civil Liberties, to the security services tribunal, set up last year to hear complaints. She said: "It is common knowledge that this [bugging] is widespread but the first time that direct evidence has been found."

Ms Redgrave courted trouble recently when she said: "We must

unconditionally defend Iraq against American, British or Israeli troops." That remark prompted her sister Lynn to say she was thinking of changing her name. The opinions were said to have cost Ms Redgrave a starring role in an American tour of *Letice and Lovage*.

The actress was reluctant yesterday to talk about the Gulf war or reports that she had been dropped for the *Letice* tour. She felt however that her support for the PLO had always made her suspect in security service eyes. "It is no news to you," she said, "that those who, like me, support the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination are routinely labelled as being terrorists or pro-terrorism."

At a press conference in the Waldorf hotel she said: "A serious violation of civil liberties has taken place. Who put it there and why was it put there? Neither I nor Corin has engaged in any illegal activity. Why are our civil liberties being violated by illicit transmission, illicit surveillance?"



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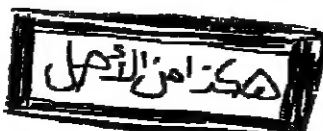
in this newspaper on Monday 4th March. You then have until 3.30 pm on Tuesday 5th March to drop your form in to one of the banks listed on it.

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settles case

Dahl leaves
nearly £3m

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Barclays job losses fuel fear of mass redundancies

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS Bank yesterday said it intends to shed 5,000 jobs this year, fuelling concern among union leaders that more than 35,000 jobs are now at risk in the industry.

Midland Bank has already announced it is to lose 4,000 jobs before the end of the year, while Lloyds has said 2,200 jobs will have to be cut, with more expected. National Westminster is also encouraging 15,000 staff to leave through early or voluntary retirement.

Yesterday's announcement by Sir John Quinlan, chairman of Barclays, angered staff

as it coincided with the bank's annual statement showing profits in 1990 had increased by 10 per cent. Sir John said that more than 12,000 staff could lose their jobs over the next five years.

As members of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union prepared to meet next week to counter the move, John Brawley, the union's assistant secretary, said: "We could live with voluntary redundancies but there is no way we can accept compulsory job losses."

Sir John's announcement, which was less severe than some analysts had predicted, led Mr Brawley to concede that the days were over when a job in a bank could be regarded as a job for life. His union fears that for every job lost in the major clearing banks, two more could go in other financial sectors, such as insurance. It has also accused bank managements of panicking in the face of recession after years of large profits.

Sir John said that in the last three years the number of full-time staff voluntarily leaving the bank had averaged 6,500 a year, more than 9 per cent of the workforce. "We had expected to be able to handle future reductions from our normal resignation pattern and with judicious management of recruitment," he said. The level of resignations, however, had fallen sharply and was expected to total only 60 per cent of previous levels.

"In 1991 we expect to see a larger than average reduction in jobs and our bank-wide calculations show that we may have between two and three thousand people more than we have jobs for them to fill," Sir John added.

Workers at the Horlicks factory in Slough, Berkshire, are to receive pay increases of up to 40 per cent. The deal, the highest in the current pay round, comes as new figures due out next week are expected to show that many firms are restricting rises to between 5 and 7 per cent.

Horlicks management has negotiated the deal because of increased world demand for the night-time drink. In exchange for greatly increased shift premiums, the transport union members at the factory have agreed a radical change in working practices which involves 24-hour production. The company said that the agreement would not add substantially to the wage bill but would give the employees much more leisure time.

Barclays details, page 25

Gibraltar witness settles case

Carren Proetta, witness to the shooting of three IRA members in Gibraltar by the SAS three years ago, yesterday accepted £150,000 in legal costs and damages from *The Sunday Times* over articles, which, she said, accused her of lying about the incident in the *This Week* television programme "Death on the Rock".

The newspaper also accepted that claims that she ran an escort agency and had anti-British views were "wholly untrue".

Mrs Proetta's counsel, Charles Gray, QC, said: "Mrs Proetta accepts in the light of evidence given at the inquest in Gibraltar that *The Sunday Times* had compelling grounds for stating that she was wrong in her account of the shooting."

Dahl leaves nearly £3m

Ronald Dahl, the children's author, left nearly £3 million in his will published yesterday. The writer of *The BFG* and *The Witches*, who died last November aged 74, left an estate valued at £2,843,217 gross, £2,833,940 net.

Mr Dahl, who also wrote the *Tales of the Unexpected* short stories, left most of his estate to his second wife, Felicity.

Condom rethink

The Irish Republic's "outdated" family planning laws are to be changed, Charles Haughey, the prime minister, said yesterday. Laws limiting contraceptive sales to chemists' shops and approved outlets have been criticised after action against condom sales at a Virgin store in Dublin.

TV wins changes in no-bias code

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

REVISED rules on impartiality for television broadcasters will not prohibit any programmes in current independent television and Channel 4 schedules or force programme-makers to "conjure up" any new programme to meet the requirements, the Independent Television Commission said yesterday.

"I would not expect there to be any changes in output as a result of this code, although broadcasters will have to be more conscientious about labelling programmes to ensure viewers know the opinions being presented are part of a series that will be balanced over time," Clare Mulholland, the commission's director of programmes, said.

The commission yesterday published the final wording of the code, which had been clarified after further consultation with broadcasters. Many broadcasters had complained that the draft code could have led to litigation.

The code has now been amended to more clearly define "major matters" of political or industrial controversy relating to public policy that must be balanced within a programme or series. A controversial matter is not automatically a major matter, and while due impartiality is required in both cases, the time-frame during which a wide variety of opinions must be expressed is more narrow if the subject becomes "a live issue of national debate", the commission says.

The commission has also amended its programme code to allow specialist religious channels, on cable or satellite, to recruit directly viewers to a religious faith. Direct appeals for funds will not be allowed.

Unauthorized advertising inserts slipped between the pages of newspapers after they have left the publishers were outlawed by the Court of Appeal yesterday. It upheld a High Court decision banning Insert Media, Hampstead Distribution and Christopher Arnold from putting advertising material in the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and *You Magazine* without the publishers' consent.

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Faith put to the test for 150 years

By PETER DAVENPORT

THE engineer George Stephenson displayed great faith in his achievement after pushing the Summit railway tunnel through almost one and three quarter miles of Pennine rock 150 years ago. "I will stake my character and my head if that tunnel ever gives way so as to cause danger to any of the public passing through," he declared.

True to his forecast it has never collapsed, resisting even the explosion of a train of petrol tankers in 1984 and the ferocious fire that followed. Today, the 150th anniversary of the opening of through services on the line linking Leeds and Manchester, British Rail is running a train carrying civic dignitaries and other guests, including two of Stephenson's descendants, along the route. When the train bursts into daylight where the tunnel emerges in the village of Summit, near Rochdale, Greater Manchester, it will tear through a



Link with the past: Richard Greenwood surveys the Manchester to Leeds railway from above the mouth of the 150-year-old Summit tunnel

celebratory banner slung across its black-grimed mouth.

The event will be one of many marking the accomplishment of Stephenson and the 1,000 navvies who gouged the tunnel from the rock using picks, shovels, and gunpowder. Richard Greenwood, a Rochdale

solicitor, is chairman of the steering committee of Summit 150, an organisation of local councils, transport authorities and rail enthusiasts on both sides of the Pennines that has produced a calendar of celebrations. Children at a primary school fronting the line are building a model of the tunnel, there

will be concerts featuring old railway songs, and an exhibition on the men who built the line.

When the tunnel opened, it was the longest in the country's rail network. It was the final link in the first trans-Pennine railway and ushered in a new age of vast social and industrial change.

The tunnel, in places running 500ft below the Pennine moors, had taken four years to build and cost £250,000. About 20 million bricks and 8,000 tons of Roman cement had gone into the construction, and nine workers had paid the price of progress with their lives. Today, it still carries

about 40 passenger and 20 freight trains daily.

Mr Greenwood said: "At the time this tunnel was built the achievement could be compared with the Channel tunnel. These men only had picks and shovels and gunpowder. It was hard and dangerous work. It shouldn't be forgotten."

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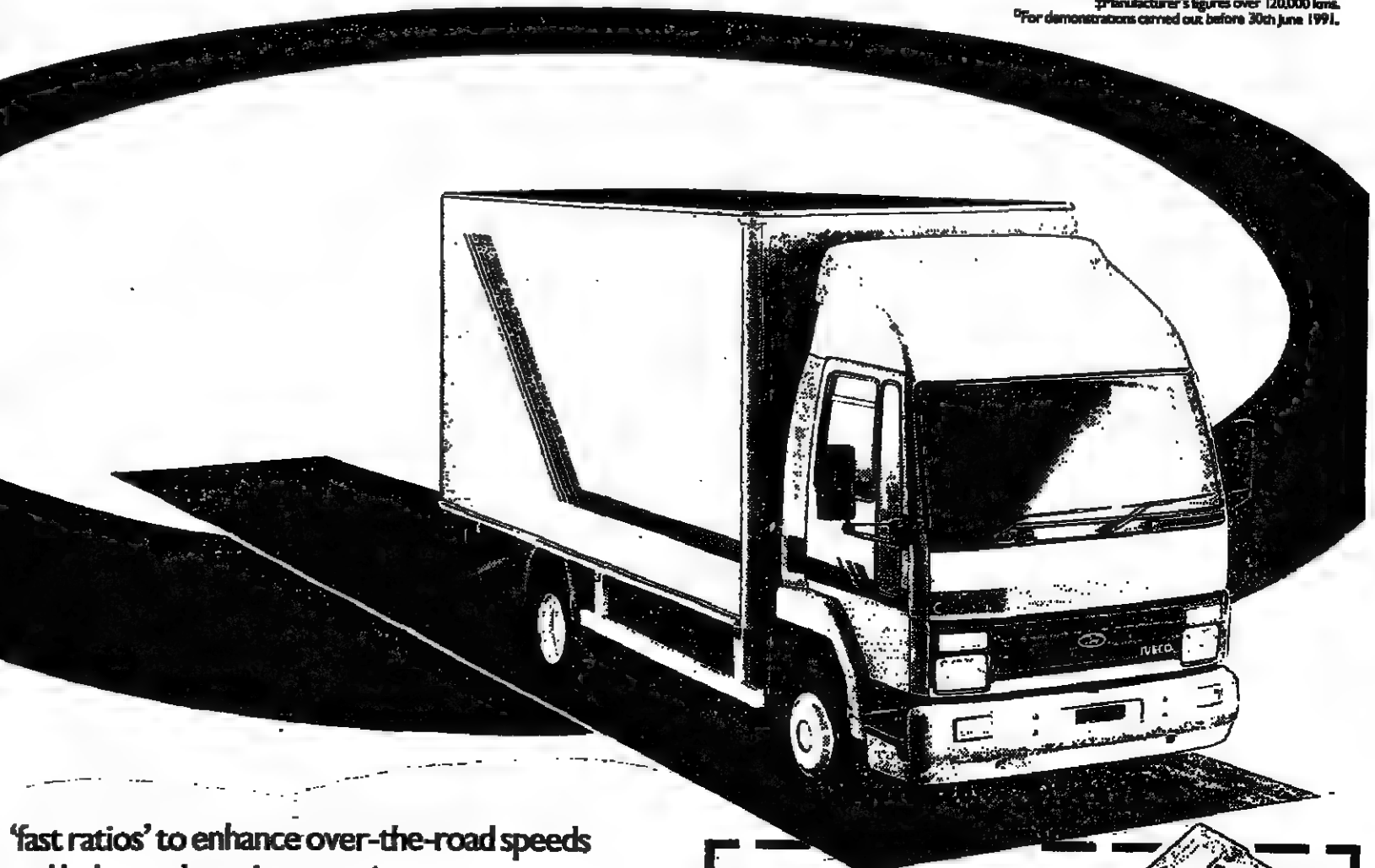
+Motor Transport 24th January 1991.
°Brewery Transport Advisory Committee, September 1990.
†European Community Directive 88/77/EEC.
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Reformists hail resignation of hardline Alia adviser

FROM RICHARD BASSETT IN TIRANA

THE chief foreign policy adviser of President Alia of Albania resigned yesterday, a move hailed as a victory for progressives within the ruling Communist party.

Sofikri Lazare, aged 68, a prominent conservative, criticised a restraining influence on Albania's recent attempts to end its four decades of isolation. Three months ago, he argued vigorously against the restoration of diplomatic ties with London. It was unclear yesterday who would replace him.

Progressives within the

Communist party doubted whether the president had any long-term future in the political life of his country. A member of the ruling elite, who is a relative of Mr Alia, said yesterday: "This is a temporary government. Alia is a necessary figure for the transition period but he is our Elgon Krenz" — a reference to the short-lived political career of East Germany's successor to Erich Honecker.

Meanwhile, it emerged yesterday that the Soviet diplomatic delegation which arrived in Tirana this week is

made up of what one official termed "several security advisers". All of the delegation of six are fluent Albanian speakers. Progressive party sources said yesterday that conservatives might ask for Moscow's help in the crisis.

Although pistol shots were heard early yesterday to the east of Skanderbeg Square in central Tirana, the situation in the capital by day appears calm. Automatic rifle and pistol fire has been heard every night since last Friday. Party sources indicated yesterday that they believed that

"extremist elements" on both sides had gathered momentum after the events of the last week. But the chances of a crackdown appear increasingly unlikely.

The Communist party is divided but the conservatives are by no means in the majority. They do, however, possess considerable organisational skills, and outside the cities monopolise such influential positions as co-operative managers, factory directors, and local party secretaries. As a result of decades of strict party control, such figures are able to organise hardline rallies at the drop of a hat.

In the small town of Kavaja, 30 miles west of Tirana, however, the local Communist party chief narrowly escaped being lynched by an anti-Communist mob earlier this week. He was saved only after members of the Democratic Party intervened to pacify the crowd.

Elsewhere, hardline rallies were losing momentum even in the south of the country, a traditionally socialist heartland. Most intellectuals believe the crunch will now come after the March 31 elections which will take place if the present relatively calm situation continues.

At present, the polls are cooling passions on both sides. Ultimately, however, the leadership of the Communist party will have to relinquish power to the government and the governed.

"In his closing weeks as president of this country, Mr Alia will no doubt be forced to grant further concessions," a Communist intellectual said. "But after the elections, the crisis will almost certainly come when the people realise that the Communists do not wish to share power."



Chief suspect: Waltraud Wagner receiving a handshake from a well-wisher

Nurses on trial for 40 murders

FROM BRENDA FOWLER IN VIENNA

FOUR nurses went on trial at Vienna's provincial court yesterday, charged with the murders of 40 elderly and feeble patients. Before a packed courtroom, Ernst Kloyber, the state prosecutor, read an 88-page indictment against the four Lainz hospital nursing assistants, who were arrested in April 1989 in a case that led Helmut Zilk, Vienna's mayor to compare the killings with Nazi medical experiments.

The indictment charged Waltraud Wagner, aged 32, Stefania Mayer, 51, Irene Leidolf, 29, and Maria Gruber, 28, with the killing of 44 patients while on duty at Lainz's Pavillion V, either by pouring water into patients' lungs or by lethal injection. Though only 40 counts of murder have been made, there has been speculation that there could be hundreds of victims.

Frau Wagner's lawyer said that she would admit having helped incurable patients to die. Frau Gruber has changed her plea to not guilty. Lawyers for the other defendants said they had acted out of sympathy for their patients and would admit to helping some of them die.

Herr Kloyber said Frau Wagner, who he called the "main culprit", began killing patients in 1982 and taught the others her methods. One, which the nurses called "oral hygiene", involved pouring water into the victim's mouth while the tongue was held so that the victim could not swallow and was forced to inhale the water into the lungs.

Herr Kloyber said that when Frau Wagner was on duty, three times as many patients died as otherwise.

EC jam on Soviet food aid

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPE'S foreign ministers are divided over whether the Soviet Union should receive parts of the EC food mountains. But they agree that Moscow should be able to buy more Bulgarian rosehip jam.

Since the killings in Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, last month, the community governments have been wrangling intermittently about whether to continue with an £800 million food and medical aid programme for the Soviet Union. Last week, most ministers favoured going ahead with the entire programme, but Britain, Denmark and The Netherlands managed to have

the decision postponed until next Monday.

Just under half the aid will come in the form of credits to buy food. Community governments are divided 6-6 on whether Moscow should be obliged — as a condition of the aid — to buy the food from surplus stocks accumulated by the common agricultural policy. France, traditionally the staunchest defender of Europe's farmers, leads the group which would oblige Moscow to reduce the food mountains.

Italy, not normally found on the economically liberal wing of these debates, leads the opposing group, which

includes Britain. These countries argue that the purposes of helping the Soviet economy should include helping the Soviet people to understand their economy.

The aid will probably be released on condition that Moscow is required to buy from Western Europe only the kinds of food already stockpiled. This is good news for the makers of Bulgarian rosehip jam, which is sold in large quantities to the Soviet Union and is not made in the EC. The Soviet authorities should soon have the funds to buy it in even larger quantities.

Kremlin referendum baffles the electorate

FROM MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE first nationwide referendum in the 73-year history of the Soviet Union starts out with an overwhelming handicap. With barely three weeks to go before the event, a sizeable proportion of the population has not the faintest idea what a referendum is.

The media keep telling them to turn up, cast their vote, and use the referendum to keep the Soviet Union together, but many are utterly mystified about what exactly they are expected to do on March 17. Some are frightened, thinking that they have to pass some sort of test.

The confusion is understandable: the word referendum, long and Latin, is alien to Russians. They are familiar with referat, which is a course paper written by students, and referent, someone who writes and defends a course paper. But referendum is something they have not come across.

The authorities will doubtless bridge the comprehension gap with the sort of "plain man's guide" to voting which preceded the country's first recognisable elections in 1989 and 1990. Then, large numbers of television producers, phone-in clerks and election officials were conscripted to

answer such questions as "what is a ballot paper?", "how do I vote?", and — not such a silly question in the Soviet context — "can I vote on behalf of someone else as well?" The problem for these recently trained voters is that the rules of the referendum game are slightly different.

The ballot paper will be recognisable, but in place of a list of candidates will be a convoluted question which requires the answer "yes" or "no", but poses a whole series of further questions. As many members of parliament have pointed out, "what do our constituents do if they agree that the Soviet Union should remain united but not socialist?" or "if they want a continued union, but not a renewed federation?"

In Moscow, so far only two political groups have clearly declared their stance on the referendum. The reformist Democratic Russia group is asking its supporters to vote "no". Their pitch has been queered somewhat by the popular Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, who has told people to vote "yes" as well as a second question about direct elections for a Russian presidency, which will be seen as a

vote of confidence in him. The best-organised by far, however, is the Moscow Communist party, which has instructed its officials on how to secure the necessary turnout and the necessary result.

Party campaigners are told to assume, first, that the voters need to know what a referendum is; and second, that they will vote chiefly out of self-interest. For the first task, activists are given a potted history of referendums, going back to ancient Rome. For the second, they are expected to be more subtle, tailoring their patter to the audience, its age and social background.

Georgian voters: The Georgian parliament, claiming that the Kremlin is waging an undeclared war against it, has decided to follow other rebel Soviet republics in holding a referendum on independence. The republic is among a number of others that have refused to sign a draft union treaty.

The nationalist parliament voted to hold a referendum on independence on March 31 when voters will be asked whether they would like to restore Georgia's independence, which was crushed by the Soviet army. (Reuters)

Ukraine leader condemns strike

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KIEV

A STRIKE today by 600,000 Donbas miners will "fan the fires of tension" in the Ukraine, according to Vitaliy Fokin, the republic's prime minister. In a televised speech to Ukraine's 52 million population, Mr Fokin said that the republic's "disastrous" economic situation would reach a "crisis point" if the coalminers went ahead with their stoppage.

The one-day strike is due to be followed by indefinite industrial action in ten days time, after talks broke down

over the miners' 250 per cent pay demand. Mr Fokin said: "If the indefinite strike goes ahead the power stations will close within two days and the coke industry will stop working. Two days after that the metal industry will close down and there will no longer be enough electricity to keep the hospitals and schools running."

He blamed groups within the miners' unions for trying to destabilise the republic and undermine its bid for independence from Moscow. He said

that "for the first time we have the chance to become sovereign, but to achieve this everybody should be first a citizen and a patriot". But strike leader, Yuri Bold Yrev said: "The fight has only just begun. We have information that President Gorbachev has ordered the Ukrainian government to prevent a strike by any means. Although the dispute is over money we have not given up our political demand which includes the resignation of the president of the Soviet Union."

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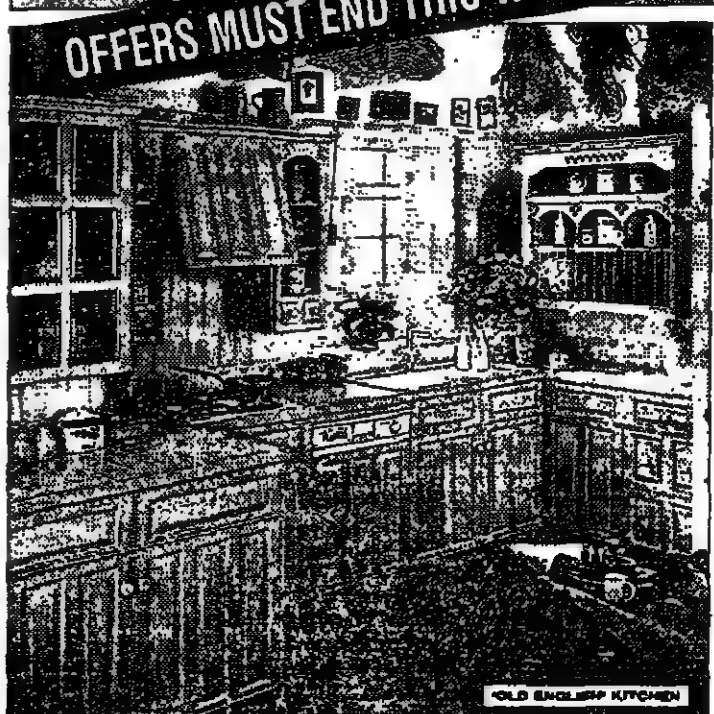
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Winners and losers of the Gulf war: the men who will rise, the dictator who must fall

Heroes fit for a hungry land

Peter Stothard

Yesterday George Bush enjoyed the acclaim of his friends, the grinning smiles of his enemies and that warm glow of popular affection which is the craving of all politicians, be they democrat or dictator. He well deserved his day in the sun. Not only had he been proved right in public, his victory against Saddam Hussein had been "a perfect score against his own personal standards of skill", as one admiring aide put it.

President Bush is today wholly his own political man, with the Reagan shadow much faded, and he has a good hope of not only winning re-election for himself in 1992 but of reviving his battered party in Congress. But just as important for the president is the vindication in the past six months of his highly personal manner of conducting affairs.

The forming and maintenance of so unlikely an international coalition was a task for which he had prepared over decades, often in idiosyncratic ways that brought him suspicion and ridicule. He had been regularly mocked by the right for putting people before principles, for treating prime ministers and presidents as though they were colleagues in one of his exclusive clubs, for being, in the words of a "wimp" in a world of sharks.

For a time the Bush club of international friends included Saddam Hussein — as he was not allowed to forget. It also held Deng Xiaoping and other unsavoury dictators with influence. When, however, the job was to lead the leaders, Mr Bush's "schmoozing" with "Mitterrand", Mulroney, Deng and Gorbachev paid back its dividend. All those hand-written notes to Morocco and Algeria, Bangladesh and Zaire got their answer. So did the president's critics.

Other carpers got their comeuppance yesterday too. At the beginning of the war there were rumbles inside the American forces, echoed by congressional Democrats, that Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, had become too powerful. General Powell was the first beneficiary of Pentagon reforms that placed the chairman of the joint chiefs firmly above the individual service heads. The highest-ranking black American in the military was useful, critics said, when the job was arms control and peace-time playing with the White House. But he was too much the Washingtonian when there was a war to be won.

It will be a foolhardy congressman who now challenges either the general or the system that gave him his authority. That is not to say that there will be no such criticism — foolhardy congressmen are not a rare species — but General Powell will be hard to trip. He is more likely to beat the politicians at their own game, either by running for a Senate seat or for the vice-presidency. He has

now overtaken Douglas Wilder, the Democrats' Virginia governor, as the most likely black man to occupy the White House. The obstacles to that end remain great, both in the party machines and in the country, but there are many Republicans and Democrats who would vie to woo the general of the Gulf war as their predecessors once vied for Dwight Eisenhower.

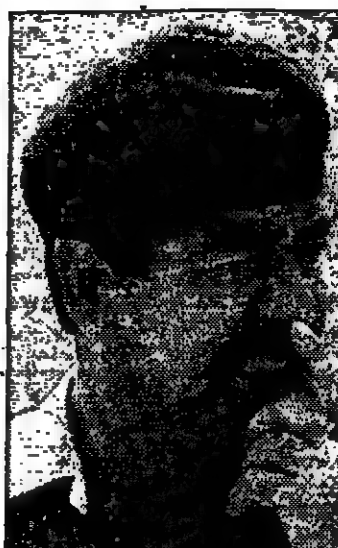
General Eisenhower, it is recalled, eschewed his first post-war chance in 1948 and triumphed four years later. General Powell, who has always kept his party affiliations open, may be tempted to do the same, gaining some direct political experience in the meanwhile. Several Democrat party managers would love him (he's perfect, said one recently, because he's black, from the Bronx and speaks Yiddish). But the party of Eisenhower and George Bush is the more likely recipient of his calm judgment and what Republican advisers see as his instinctive feel for the practical, the tactical and what is fair.

Today's favourite American hero is General Norman Schwarzkopf, the Vietnam veteran who has played the dominant part in laying the last ghosts of that terrible American war. His chosen future appears to be to go straight into the military history books, by way of a lucrative retirement as a lecturer and duck-shooter. The man who can outperform professional classical scholars in his analysis of Hannibal's victory at Cannae in 216 BC can now claim a chapter in the book of warfare for himself.

General Schwarzkopf's favourite piece of ancient history cost 50,000 enemy lives, enough to make a desert of the current arid spot, the "father" of battles in which many thousands of soldiers die. Just as Hannibal pushed his initial forces into the centre of the Roman lines but destroyed his greatly more numerous enemy with a fast-moving flanking manoeuvre round to the rear, so did General Schwarzkopf conceive his own campaign of attack. Unlike his Carthaginian hero, the "Bear", however, seems to have the sense to quit while he is ahead.

The biggest American political winners from the war against Saddam Hussein may still not be identified. They may not even have identified themselves. Enough politicians made a career out of the ashes of Vietnam to encourage many more to try their luck on the back of a popular and successful war.

Operation Desert Storm did not last long enough to attract the opportunists. No Lyndon Johnson was there, as in the Pacific war, to fly a single mission as an observer in June 1942 and flaunt his medal on the campaign trail forever after. But there will be no shortage of genuine soldiers and airmen who, having answered the question of what they will do for their country, will ask in turn what their country might do for them.



Fortunes of war: Generals Powell and Schwarzkopf have a glorious future, Major has reaped political dividends, while Saddam faces a final fall from power, and Thatcher was the unlikely loser

Sealing Saddam's fate

David Owen

Much cant is spoken about Saddam Hussein. To say that it is for the Iraqi people to choose their leadership is to ignore the nature of his regime. To say that we should save Saddam's face is to argue that we should turn a blind eye to heinous war crimes committed in Kuwait. It would be a mockery of all that we have fought for if Saddam were to remain in power.

The coalition should resolve neither to treat, sustain nor endorse Saddam as the head of the Iraqi government. Given the constraints of the 12 UN Security Council resolutions and the need to maintain international support, we concluded that we would not put our troops into Baghdad. We chose not to surround Saddam's bunker, to demand he come out with his hands up, or be blown up.

We must therefore now ensure that this does not prove to be the single largest mistake of what has otherwise been a brilliantly conducted operation. It is our duty to make it impossible for Saddam to continue in power.

The first essential step has been taken. The coalition has decided that the formal ceasefire will be negotiated by military commanders in the battlefield. We should make it clear that we will not accept that those military commanders sign such a document under the authority of Saddam. We should insist on an interim government being formed in which Saddam has no part. If we accept that he is the head of government, then we buttress his position and make it harder for the Iraqi generals or people to disown him. Our justification is

simple. We do not sign documents with someone we intend to bring to trial for war crimes.

It will be argued that there is no legal precedent for such an action. Yet if Hitler had not committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin, would the allies have accepted or endorsed his continuation as head of government?

The Kuwaiti government should decide that under national legislation Saddam will be charged with grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. These create an obligation to extradite even where there is no bilateral extradition agreement and override any blocks on extradition for "political" crimes.

The problem with upholding the Geneva Conventions is normally that there is no power to enforce them. In this case the coalition has all the means for enforcement. Sanctions cannot be lifted while any one of the three permanent members of the security council who make up the coalition forces is prepared to veto this. America, Britain and France should now declare their intention to use their veto to maintain sanctions while Saddam remains in power. The coalition should make it clear that it will continue to control Iraqi airspace and territorial access until he steps down. We should also tell a new Iraqi government, formed without Saddam, that we expect it to comply with the Kuwaiti request for his extradition.

These arrangements need not delay the dismantling of all Iraqi forces that we control, exchanges

of prisoners, or the start of the withdrawal of Western forces from southern Iraq and Kuwait. The Arab nations' land forces in the coalition are strong enough to ensure Kuwait's security. The US, Britain and France will, however, need to maintain aircraft in the region and deploy aircraft carriers in order to uphold sanctions.

With luck, the Soviet Union will support these actions in the security council. But it may break ranks and give a greater priority to the restoration of its relations with Saddam's regime. That must not deter the coalition. We have operated throughout on the basis of upholding the UN Charter.

It is a great shame that the UN's decision in the early 1950s to create an international criminal court founded on disagreements, mainly about the definition of aggression. In the absence of an international criminal court it is for the nation states to uphold the Geneva Conventions, and that obligation is part of establishing a new world order. The Soviet Union must not be allowed to block this happening, and since it is unable to lift UN sanctions without our agreement it will have to accept, however unwillingly, the decisions of the coalition.

The readiness of Saudi Arabia, Syria, Egypt and the Gulf states to come to the defence of Kuwait entitles them to a major say now in ensuring peace and stability in the region. If they are determined to bring Saddam to justice, we should be prepared to give them every possible assistance, even to the extent of refusing to allow the Soviet Union unilaterally to breach UN sanctions.

Her ghost at his triumph

Simon Jenkins

Who should stand on the podium at Britain's victory parade? John Major, prime minister throughout the conflict... or the shadow of Margaret Thatcher?

This was meant to be Mrs Thatcher's second war, the apotheosis of her special relationship with Washington, the last great thank-you for America's crucial backing during the Falklands war. At the moment of the Iraqi invasion on August 2 last year, Mrs Thatcher and George Bush were fortuitously staying together at Henry Catto's Aspen ranch. They reacted as one. British spokesmen may have exaggerated Mrs Thatcher's contribution to Mr Bush's show of "spine" that day, but she undoubtedly gave coherence and emphasis to his vague feeling that "further measures" must be threatened. The outcome was a remarkably emphatic bilateral response to what then seemed a distant outrage.

More concrete than Mrs Thatcher's personal influence was her offer of unstinting military support, including the ground troops vital to the expeditionary force's multinational character. Without this, America could not possibly have moved to swift deployment.

European governments could reasonably have concluded, as many did, that this was a far-off dispute in which they need not become embroiled. They had avoided Vietnam and, mostly, avoided Lebanon. Had Europe stood aloof, the Soviet Union would never have supported a security council mandate for force. With only America as a military sponsor, the "Arab coalition" would have melted away. The Middle East would have had to accept another twist of Saddam's screw.

The warm afterglow of triumph can obliterate the sobering choices that are usually the prelude to war. Mrs Thatcher last summer was at her most emboldened and belligerent. On her visit to America, she was intending to ridicule European unity and lay out her hopes for a post-cold war world. Suddenly Saddam Hussein offered a testbed for her world view: of an America strong enough to confront wrong politically and militarily; of a Britain stiffening Washington's always hesitant resolve in foreign affairs; of a Soviet Union neutralised as an evil and perhaps broken into a force for good; of a Europe lost in peace visions of unity, a selfish, vacillating Germany at its core.

When Mrs Thatcher was consumed with anti-German frenzy last summer, she warned her colleagues that the Bonn-Berlin axis would turn and run when put to the test. The cry of "I told you so!" echoed round the Thatcher entourage as the Germans and other Europeans (not the French) sought to wriggle from the coalition straitjacket. To Mrs Thatcher, the Gulf conflict was the vindication of the English-speak-

ing union, proof of a bond beat-

sealed by the Falklands war. Then came November 28 last year. Can modern politics offer a greater irony? "What a triumph for Saddam Hussein," was Mrs Thatcher's bitter comment on her downfall. Qualities of clarity and firmness that had helped put together an unprecedented multinational alliance were cast aside before a shot was fired. A woman experienced in war leadership might have been an ideal architect of prewar diplomacy. But at the moment of crisis, her party preferred a wholly inexperienced alternative, and when the fighting started even praised his leadership, style in contrast to hers.

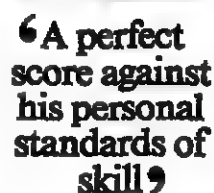
So it has been. The 1991 Gulf war has done for John Major the same service that the 1982 Falklands war did for Mrs Thatcher. That service is not reflected, yet, in opinion polls or election results but in political stature. Before the Falklands, Mrs Thatcher was battered, the victim of faction and whispering. The war was a huge military gamble, requiring force of personality to push it to conclusion when defeat often seemed near. She emerged from it a dominant world figure.

The Gulf war has been almost mechanical in comparison. The massing of armour, the devastating bombs, the swift defeat of a collapsing enemy have all seemed relentless. Mrs Thatcher's strident voice would have seemed overbearing. Mr Major's deadpan location has never jarred. He has led from the front, but in the manner of a corporate executive, concerned for his shareholders. The peace lobby was unable to generate emotion. Mr Major embodied modern war's studied underbribe.

Most prime ministers who have run a war hanker afterwards for its simplicity. Mrs Thatcher found a war cabinet with clear lines of command a relief after the compromises of domestic politics. The Falklands experience reinforced her self-confidence, some would say her self-righteousness.

How Mr Major will respond to the onset of peace will determine the next stage of his prime ministership. He has answered one question that hovers over any new leader: how will he perform under pressure on the international stage? He has performed well, a steadfast ally to the Americans, patient in his relations with Europe.

He now faces challenges on the home front from the hydra heads of poll tax and recession. He may draw confidence from the Gulf experience. But home is famously tougher than abroad. The panoply of world statesmanship diverts the eye. The flags, the embassies, the trumpets are an escape from nasty decisions back home. But they do not go away. Mrs Thatcher knows. She was sitting resplendent in an opera box at Versailles, a queen on the global stage... when a call from London said *finis*.



A perfect score against his personal standards of skill

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Le Carré is right. He is not just whistling to keep our spirits down. The structure is still in place. Nothing has changed.

It did not start like Le Carré, mind. It started like Graham Greene. Le Carré would not dream of kicking off with the doormatting of a crumpled scrap of paper in an unattributable envelope, because melodrama has no place in espionage. Which shows you that though he may be right about some things, he is wrong about Crickwood.

Do not blame him. Crickwood is a little wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. Even I did not know about The Russian Centre. Until, that is, the unidentified correspondent posted me, last Tuesday, the crumpled scrap of paper. Uncrumpled it read: "CERAMICS FROM RUSSIA IN CRICKWOOD: The Russian Centre, 303 Crickwood Broadway NW2."

It was torn from a spiski. I do not know what a spiski is. I know only that the single paragraph ran: "The Filipovski one-man show mentioned in the last spiski will be extended into February and The Russian Centre will then stage an interesting exhibition of the work of Russian experimental ceramists. Both the Muscovites are terribly flamboyant. Alyona Mironova's work mixes lace with clay and her phallic heads are also of interest."

End of fragment. No more clues. I wished I had the last spiski, but I did not, I only had this spiski, and not much of it, at

that. But I had an address. I put the bit of spiski in my pocket and set off. Crickwood is my territory: phallic heads do not appear in it unchallenged.

Not that I believed for one moment that that was what was happening. Smiley's person I may not be, but I have picked up a smattering of code along life's literary way, and I know that when one man passes a note to another man informing him that the grey pees are flying tonight, neither is an ornithologist. A spiski to the effect that phallic heads are also of interest must be taken with a pinch of paprika.

303 lay at the northernmost end of the Broadway. You would not know it was Crickwood at all, were it not that it stands next door to the Crickwood Hotel, for here the great white way, far from the bright lights of the downtown laundrettes and Halal cash 'n' carries, peters out into beige oblongs of anonymous office blocks, not unlike, indeed, the outskirts of Minsk. I parked opposite a dark shopfront with Caucasian Carpets stencilled above it. And, in smaller letters, Russian Centre. A chain shackled the door-handles, but there was a bell.

Terribly flamboyant was not the phrase. My spiski had led me to expect a giant Cossack in ginger mutton-chops and crossed bandoliers pirouetting towards me on spurred boots, but instead I found myself looking down at a tiny, elderly man in a dusty fur hat, who opened the door a fraction but did not loose the chain. I showed

him my spiski. He peered at it, muttered, in a ripe Slav accent, "Filipovski did not come," and made to close the door. "Are the phallic heads here?" I said quickly. It did the trick. He unlocked the chain. I went in. The gloom smelt of shagpile.

"Is downstairs all carpets," he explained, unnecessarily. They were piled floor to ceiling. "Is upstairs exhibition." He shuffled into a raggy canyon, and vanished.

The exhibition occupied three small rooms. The first contained a few gilded teapots, the second a tall vase, a large ship and a small ship, labelled respectively Tall Vase, Large Ship and Small Ship. I went into the third room; a typed notice identified the work of A. Mironova, but I could see nothing made from lace and clay. All I could see were a few small heads of George Bernard Shaw. They were elongated, true, but with the best will in the world, or at any rate the oddest, you could not term them phallic. It was at this critical point that the ghum goblin suddenly reappeared.

"You have seen what you need to see?" he enquired. "I don't know," I said. He sighed. "You expected Filipovski. He has not come." He switched off the lights, and I followed him downstairs, and he took the padlock off again and opened the door. "He may come," said the old Russian. "Do you wish to leave your address?" "He knows where to find me," I said, and went back into the cold.

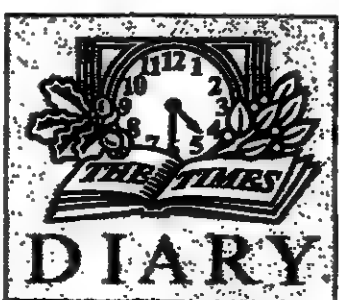
St Paul's ready for Gulf service

Even as the battle maps are being rolled up in the desert, plans are under way to mark the allied victory with a national service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral. Both the Queen and John Major are understood to be in favour of a religious ceremony to honour the fallen, and the Dean of St Paul's, Eric Evans, says that the cathedral, associated with military thanksgivings since the time of Nelson, is ready and willing to stage it. "We have made it known that we are ready. We are waiting to hear from the appropriate authorities," he says.

Plans are also being laid for a war memorial. "We have in the crypt memorials to those who died in both the Korean and Falklands wars, and although no arrangements have yet been made for a Gulf war memorial, I expect we shall be erecting something."

During the Falklands remembrance service at St Paul's in 1982 Dr Robert Runcie infuriated Margaret Thatcher by urging prayers for all the bereaved, including the Argentinians. The service was followed three months later by a parade with the biggest military march-past in living memory. On this occasion, however, both the Queen and Major are said to want to avoid any suggestion of triumphalism.

A spokesman at Lambeth Palace confirmed that it had been consulted about some form of service, but feared it would take place before the enthronement of Dr George Carey as Archbishop of Canterbury. "It will be fairly soon, shortly after the troops return," says a spokesman. "Whether it will be before April 19 when Dr Carey takes over we still do not know." If it is, John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, will be asked to officiate.



On manoeuvres

The Imperial War Museum is also making post-war plans. Dr Christopher Dowling, exhibitions organiser, has already lined up a number of items supplied by the Gulf Hostages Support Group to illustrate the early days of the crisis. "We have diaries, photographs and a clandestine newsletter that circulated among the hostages," he says.

Museum staff are on the lookout for other items, including fragments of Scud and Patriot missiles. "The desert is littered with discarded Iraqi equipment and we hope to get a full Republican Guard uniform," says Dowling. Given how much it has been a media war, he adds: "We would also like some mementoes from the broadcasters. It would be wonderful if we could get hold of Kate Adie's belt-tether."

Pankhurst regained

Readers have come up trumps in the search launched by this column a fortnight ago for the lost paintings of Sylvia Pankhurst. So far no fewer than eight of the suffragette's pictures have turned up, including a set of panels illustrating the Arthurian legends. Unframed and roughly 18 by 24 inches in size, the panels are now on display in Jane England's gallery in Kensington.

"They were sold at auction by

neighbours of the Pankhursts, who had lived next door to the family in Cheyne Walk, and now belong to a client of mine who prefers to remain anonymous," she says.

Jacqueline Mulholland, organiser of the search for the pictures, and author of a play about Pankhurst entitled *Sylvia*, will inspect the panels tomorrow and hopes that they can be returned to the family. Richard Pankhurst, who moved to Ethiopia with his mother in the 1930s, has expressed a desire to buy any pictures found.

Cellar's market

A set of four silver-gilt salt cellars fetched £66,000 at Sotheby's yesterday to the delight of a Wiltsire couple, who first discovered their value on the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow* last summer. When the couple, who prefer to remain anonymous, were sold on air they could expect about £40,000 for the cellars, they were given a police escort home. Sotheby's was equally pleased with the higher than expected sum paid yesterday. And what will the



owners do with the money? "They are keen stamp collectors," says Sotheby's. "We think they are off to a stamp exhibition." Presumably in search of another bargain.

Fast books falter

Saddam Hussein and his revolutionary council are not the only ones stunned by the speed of the ending of the Gulf war. Recession-hit publishers who remember with nostalgia the book boom after the Falklands war have been denied a windfall by the nature of the high-tech conflict. "The public has been swamped with information about the war," says literary agent Michael Sissons. "They have gorged on details about the technology in the air and on the ground. Now events are moving with such speed that in six months' time no one will be interested in a book."

Of the television reporters only John Simpson has been signed up for a quick account of his experiences. But Hutchinson, which hopes to publish the book in August, may catch a cold. After covering the initial aerial attacks on Baghdad, Simpson returned to London to recuperate from minor ailments, only setting out for the theatre of war again on Wednesday, virtually as the fighting stopped. His four nights in Baghdad after the outbreak of war fall considerably short of the 1,000 clocked up by Scheherazade in the original Arabian bestseller, and Hutchinson has so far found no takers for the £50,000 serial rights.

Last week New Scientist leaked a report sent to the government by the advisory board for the research councils. This week the telephone rang in the journal's office. "Hello, it's the House of Lords select committee on science and technology here... you know that report to Kenneth Clarke you leaked last week? Well, the Department of Education and Science won't give us one. Do you think we could have a copy of yours?" Protecting their sources to the last, the magazine gave them a polite but firm "no".



DESERT CALM

The Gulf war has been won. Kuwait is free and Iraq's army, a force of 620,000 men, has been defeated more rapidly and resoundingly than could have been imagined on August 2, the day President Saddam Hussein invaded his peaceful neighbour. The "potentially historic peace" in the turbulent Middle East of which President Bush spoke yesterday will take far longer to build than the allies' brief and brilliant military campaign took to conduct. But Mr Bush's statesmanlike decision yesterday to suspend military action will improve the prospects for such a peace. The allies have been wise to show magnanimity in victory.

When the guns fell silent the political conditions for this ceasefire, which remains provisional, did not exist. Saddam, compounding a long sequence of political and military miscalculations, was apparently incapable of comprehending the scale of Iraq's military catastrophe and was still trying to obtain a ceasefire on Iraq's terms. But in southern Iraq, the allies had encircled and destroyed all but small units of his forces and barred their lines of retreat to Baghdad. It was time to take the political initiative.

By acting when he did, Mr Bush not only spared both sides further casualties, but created the occasion to lay down allied terms for a final ceasefire. These were carefully, and characteristically, agreed with America's allies beforehand. Mr Bush, who yesterday said that "no one country can claim this victory as its own", has stressed the international nature of this operation ever since August 2.

This most political of wars has always required astute balancing of the respective weight to be given to military action and diplomacy. His early decisiveness in dispatching troops was critical. Sanctions would never have persuaded Saddam to disgorge Kuwait. In the diplomatic endgame before the ground offensive began, Mr Bush judged correctly when the point had been reached to ignore Saddam's duplicity.

Allied casualties were astonishingly light. General Schwarzkopf's westward flanking movement through Iraq dramatically shortened what could have been a costly campaign against numerically superior forces. The war was fought as it had to be, as a coalition under the authority of the UN. A disparate alliance has held together for six months, confounding Saddam's expectations. Saddam's efforts to drag Israel into the conflict by launching Scud attacks earned him scorn even from so implacable an enemy of Israel as Syria. Over the whole coalition lay the legal authority conveyed by 12 UN resolutions, making it impossible for Saddam to gain widespread support for his repeated claims that this was a war between him and the United States.

This alliance involved careful nurturing, both by Washington and London, of the Soviet Union's desire to be seen as a co-operative partner in upholding the rule of law. Moscow felt able to claim credit for the

ceasefire yesterday and will be the more likely to use its influence in Iraq to ensure military formalities. The allied terms will further reduce the future threat from Iraq, even if Saddam remains in power. His Revolutionary Command Council must confirm the unconditional acceptance of all 12 resolutions pledged in a letter to the security council early yesterday from Iraq's foreign minister, Tariq Aziz. Iraq must also explicitly renounce its claims to Kuwait. This must be followed by the repeal by its national assembly of the laws passed last August which absorbed part of Kuwait into Basra province and declared the rest the 19th province of Iraq.

One lesson of the Iran-Iraq war has been learned. Before a formal ceasefire is agreed, Iraq must hand over prisoners of war, including Kuwaiti soldiers captured last August, to the care of the International Committee of the Red Cross and release all foreign nationals, as required under UN resolution 664. And it must assign Iraqi officers to help Kuwaiti officials and allied forces to locate all booby-traps and minefields in southern Iraq and Kuwait.

The allies will not only insist that retreating forces leave behind their equipment and weapons but, as John Major emphasised yesterday, will also require a commitment from Iraq to destroy all its ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction under international supervision. Sanctions, relieved only by humanitarian aid, will remain in place at least until then and possibly as long as Saddam remains in power. These are tough terms, but toughness is warranted.

The steps from a ceasefire to regional peace will be difficult to negotiate. The legal and diplomatic dossiers bulge with evidence of Iraq's wrongdoing since the invasion, beginning with the taking of hostages, the atrocities inflicted on Kuwaiti civilians and Iraq's systematic despoliation of Kuwait by "scorched earth". Even with Iraq's territory under temporary occupation and its army disarmed, the country must continue to be treated as a pariah so long as Saddam is in power. There can be no guarantee that even in defeat, Iraq's leadership will lose its cohesion, its cunning — or its secret police.

The allies have been right to emphasise that they have no quarrel with Iraq's wretchedly-led people, but if British, American and French forces are to be withdrawn as rapidly as their political masters hope, the political pressure must be maintained. The dreadful human costs of this victory permit, as Mr Bush said, no euphoria other than that properly occasioned by the low allied casualties and the bravery of allied troops.

There are still tense days and weeks ahead. But to have enforced the rule of law 43 days after the start of the allied campaign and within a mere hundred hours of the launching of the ground offensive is a momentous achievement. The world has earned the right to plan, with some optimism, for peace.

MEANWHILE IN BRITAIN

Compared to the devastation of Kuwait and Iraq by war, the damage wrought by the recession back in Britain is mild. Sooner or later, the country will emerge from the trough into which government policy is still pushing the economy. In Adam Smith's wry words: "Be assured, my young friend, that there is a great deal of ruin in a nation." But unless Wednesday's timid half-point cut in base rates is speedily followed by further reductions, the wounds which this recession has already inflicted will take years to heal.

Even if a slowing in the sustained growth of the 1980s was to be expected, the depth of the present recession was not. What has shocked so many of those who felt themselves part of this growth is the hesitancy with which John Major and Norman Lamont are countering it. Every day the cost of recession grows: from yesterday's reported 46 per cent drop in ICI's profits to the thousands of failures of small businesses.

Ministers should remember what recession means for those not safe within the public sector laager. Recession is a technical term for economists, a slogan for politicians, but a hard reality for most families in the land. It has banished the public hopes and private dreams that seemed within reach for millions in the 1980s.

The economic recovery which began in 1982 was technologically advanced and service-oriented. Council houses and nationalised industries were privatised and wealth more widely distributed. Income tax fell. To own a private business became not only profitable but acceptable even in circles that formerly considered only public sector jobs as respectable. Many of the skilled working class and the self-employed, who were Mrs Thatcher's most enthusiastic constituency, borrowed to the limits of their capacity. Nothing in their experience told them this might be an unwise thing to do. The crash of their self-confidence over the past year has resounded across the political landscape. High interest rates and fixed exchange rates were brought in by Mr Major to "squeeze inflation" out of the economy. They are now carrying off the supporters of Thatcherism faster than his enemies.

In the boom years, the public sector was on the defensive. Its employees declined to preserve their share of the national income. The status of most state employees declined in relation to their private sector counterparts. Young graduates attached lower value to job security during the period of falling unemployment after 1986.

These roles are now reversed. When the grandest City institutions are firing staff daily — Barclays Bank laid off 5,500 yesterday — such secure professions as teaching, nursing and public administration

are again attractive to those entering the labour market. Public employees are more insulated against the impact of interest rates on private enterprise.

Europe's exchange-rate mechanism is inducing the government to squeeze credit at a time when both monetarist and Keynesian principles demand a lower bank rate and a devaluation, though many in the money markets question whether the latter necessarily follows from the former. Threatened with six of the best by the ERM, only the public sector enters Mr Major's study well-padded. Inflation does indeed harm those who depend on fixed savings. It harms exports and if, as the money supply is not controlled, run into hyperinflation.

But inflation cannot be fought by usurious interest rates on the one hand, and generous pay awards to the public sector on the other. Counter-inflationary interest rates, introduced late in the day, are now killing the patient faster than the disease they were meant to cure. Inflation is an economic evil and the political culture in which Mr Major and Mr Lamont grew up rightly felt it should be combated. But it is not the greatest economic evil, which is the prolonged idleness of capital and labour.

The prime minister's desire to avoid what he sees as the mistakes of his former chief at the Treasury, Nigel Lawson, is now compounded by his fear of being thought weak, and by the ingrained detachment of modern British politics from the marketplace. Inflation is an indicator of price distortion from which sound economic management ought to have been able to protect the nation. Having failed to do that, the government has aggravated a severe recession with all its human tragedy.

Those who depend on savings have reason to be grateful that interest rates have stayed so high for so long. The retired, few of whom have large debts but most of whom have savings, are in many cases net beneficiaries. But many people in their 30s, 40s and 50s — the generation which grasped the opportunities offered by the last decade — are now disillusioned. They have been made to feel like failures. It is no longer the capitalist system they doubt (even the Labour party recognises this) but themselves.

Mr Major seems an ideal role model for this new commercial elite, which partly explains why he was Mrs Thatcher's appointed successor. Yet the prime minister's safety-first attitude seems perverse, not reflecting the views of those whose spirit is being crushed. The recession is scarring a generation which for a decade was loyal to the Conservative party. The robustness of that loyalty under strain will determine the politics of the rest of the 1990s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Winning the Middle East peace

From Professor G. Lee Williams
Sir, The theory that President Saddam Hussein could lose the war but proceed to win the peace by surviving with his domestic power base intact and with his prestige among the Arabs soaring has been all but vindicated by President Bush's decision to announce a ceasefire.

It matters not that Iraq's economy has been partially destroyed nor that his armies have been vanquished. General Schwarzkopf's belief that Saddam's strategy was a hasty dash because of his poor military leadership is based upon a reasonable and logical Western belief which the Arab masses do not understand.

I believe that we are about to witness a spectacular demonstration of support for Saddam throughout the disaffected Arab peoples which will sustain his position in Iraq and thereby deter a military coup against him. The use of military force against him has proved only to be a technical success because military defeat really required the partial or temporary occupation of Iraq and not merely the liberation of Kuwait.

The UN terms of reference together with political cowardice will ensure that Saddam survives to fight another day.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
Institute of Economic
and Political Studies,
18 Wickett Street, Cambridge.
February 28.

From Mr John Lugsden
Sir, I strongly suggest that a high British honour be given to General Norman Schwarzkopf. He has been responsible for a brilliantly planned, executed and successful campaign. The coalition's war aims have been achieved and the casualties — including British — have been so few compared with the thousands that were feared.

I believe that many Britons would take great pleasure in seeing the general going to the palace to receive an honour from our Queen.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LUGSDEN,
66 Hookfield, Epsom, Surrey.
February 28.

From the Minister of State
for the Armed Forces
Sir, Dr Nicholson (February 26) expressed concern about the arrangements for dealing with wounded Iraqi prisoners of war.

HMG will meet all its obligations under the Geneva Conventions. Article 12 of the First Geneva Convention does indeed require that priority for medical treatment in the field shall be determined only on medical grounds. This will be strictly observed by our forces in the Gulf.

After immediate treatment, it is proper to segregate allied and enemy

wounded. We are required to make provision for the long-term detention of prisoners of war. This is covered by the Third Geneva Convention, which requires the provision of adequate medical facilities and hospital treatment where required.

The UK government has made suitable provision to meet these obligations. Long-term hospital treatment would normally be provided in Gulf states or in Iraq following repatriation. A number of other countries have also offered hospital beds, to which stabilised cases could be moved if it had no adverse effect on the individual's health. Iraqi prisoners requiring specialist treatment not available in the Gulf could be treated in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
ARCHIE HAMILTON,
Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall, SW1.
February 27.

From Sir Gilbert Longden
Sir, Can your columnist, Martin Jacques ("Enslaved by nostalgia", February 20), really mean that "Britons have been brought up to believe that our national role in life is to keep order"? No Briton born since 1939 has had any such belief. It would be difficult to describe the recent mood of the British public less accurately.

We went unwillingly to war but, as members of the United Nations, there was only one "appropriate response" to the seizure of Kuwait. To have failed would have meant the relapse into impotence of the United Nations and that the hope of maintaining a world order of peace and security for all members of the UN, however weak, would be postponed for a very long time.

Sincerely,
GILBERT LONGDEN,
89 Cornwall Gardens, SW7.
February 28.

From Professor Samuel I. Cohen
Sir, General Sir John Hackett rightly points out (February 27) that the true purpose of our warfare is to prevent nuclear war. Would it therefore not be right for the United Nations to rescind its infamous resolution condemning Israel for its destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981 and at the same time to convey its vote of thanks for what was done?

The facts that are known now were equally well known then. Such a move would serve as a warning to other irresponsible dictators and to those who supply them.

Yours faithfully,
SAMUEL I. COHEN,
The London Hospital Medical College,
Department of Psychiatry,
Turner Street, E1.
February 27.

Air travel doubts

From Mr Peter Martin
Sir, The dramatic turn of events in the Gulf still seems to leave unresolved the near disastrous downturn in demand for air travel which, as your report of February 13 indicated, is due to fear of flying in the face of the terrorist threat rather more than to the recession. Something needs urgently to be done to demonstrate that aviation security is, in the United Kingdom at least, at its highest level ever. But airlines clearly cannot say of themselves that they are 100 per cent secure and governments cannot say it of airlines either.

There is always going to be room for an episode as aberrant, unexpected and bizarre as the Whitehall mortar attack. And if things do go wrong after assurances of security have been given, the litigation and even prosecutions for corporate manslaughter that may follow are hardly likely to encourage management to stick their necks out.

What then can be done? I suggest that part of this fear of flying is due to a subconscious anxiety of the consequences of death or injury in financial and therefore family terms. Will damages be paid? Will accident insurance policies pay? Will employers compensate families?

It might help, at least a little, if the

public were to be informed that, leaving aside all questions of airline liability under the Warsaw Convention system with all its flaws and limitations, if terrorism causes death or injury on board a British aircraft the criminal injuries compensation scheme applies and would, subject to proof of loss, pay full damages. This is pretty negative stuff, I admit, but it is better than doing nothing and it might just help.

If potential travellers are genuinely afraid to fly, as contrasted with failing to fly because they cannot afford to do so, it is hardly likely that cheap fares will much attract them to risk their lives if that is what they believe they are doing. A package deal of information and comfort might help.

I add that if inclusive-tour operators want to attract back holiday-makers whose custom they appear to be losing they ought to give urgent consideration to the war risk exclusion clauses in their standard conditions. Anyone who reads these intelligently would be foolish to put down his money in advance for a holiday only to find that he might not be compensated if it were cancelled for war risk reasons.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MARTIN,
Frere Cholmeley (Solicitors),
28 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2.
February 27.

Motorway safety

From Sir William Mather
Sir, Mr Andrew Bradford (February 16) quite rightly draws attention to the increased safety and environmental benefits achieved on the Continent by planting up the central reservations of motorways.

Not only at night is it a great relief not to see oncoming headlights but also in daylight it is much more agreeable and restful not to see the oncoming traffic and often be showered by its spray.

For some strange reason the various transport ministers and their departments have always cold-shouldered suggestions for central planting, usually on grounds of impracticability; the central reservations are too narrow in Britain, shrubs and flowers could not survive the oil, the salt, the windage, etc. All absolute nonsense and the cost is not likely to compare unfavourably with concrete.

If virtually the whole of Europe, including Romania and Bulgaria, can attractively plant up their central reservations, how come that a safety-conscious nation of garden lovers is so far behind?

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM MATHER,
Whitely Hall,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.
February 21.

Re-evaluating railways

From Mr Malcolm Peel
Sir, During the last decade, many more railway stations have been opened than closed, and several stretches of line have been brought back into use. The branch to Stansted Airport, due to be formally opened by the Queen in March, represents three and a half miles of brand new route. Major improvements in rail infrastructure are at various stages of planning or implementation within almost all the major conurbations. Approval has been given for the cross-London Paddington-Liverpool Street link. The opening of the Channel tunnel will add further importance to the rail network.

Has the time now come when the significance of the closed rail routes should be reconsidered? Many of them, including ironically that of the Great Central railway originally

Women priests and church unity

From the Reverend Father Peter Geldard
Sir, Clifford Longley was quite right ("The greatest of these is Hope", February 23) to castigate the Anglo-Catholic movement for often using intemperate language and the negativity of its past.

It is surely wrong, though, to describe as purely "sectarian" those of us who, because of their deep concern for the wider unity of the Christian Church, urge the Church of England to exercise caution and restraint in proceeding with a total innovation, i.e. the ordination of women, which the majority of Christendom (both present and past) see as a cause of further division within the Body of Christ.

Those of us who plead that we "should not proceed any further" towards disunity have though never, even in our worst moments, described the advocates of this novelty as indulging in "serious heresy" with its consequential conclusion that each people are in a state of mortal sin and their future salvation was in doubt.

It was therefore with profound sadness that one observed the use of this phrase by George Carey (Archbishop of Canterbury-elect) when describing, not the innovators, but those who uphold the orthodox position which the Church has held for nearly 2,000 years. His gracious withdrawal, reported in your paper today, is an explicit reminder to everyone, not just Anglo-Catholics, that we all need to be careful in the use of certain "loaded language" at this fractious time.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GELDARD (Chairman),
The Catholic Group in
General Synod,
Faith House, 7 Tufton Street, SW1.
February 28.

From Mr C. N. M. van den Arend
Sir, It sometimes seems to be forgotten that the debate concerning women priests is two debates. One is as to whether it is agreeable to the mind of Christ that women should be ordained as priests or bishops. The other is whether it is permissible for Anglicans to ordain women as priests contrary to the belief and practice of the universal Church.

The first debate can legitimately be continued by any Christians until a conclusion is accepted by the whole Church. The second is of more immediate concern to English Anglicans, as to accept that the provinces of Canterbury and York have no authority to go their own way on so fundamental an issue would seem to make Anglicanism a sect rather than a separated part of the Catholic Church waiting for com-

munion to be restored. There is the real heartbreak of those who have the church of their baptism and love it as a part of the Catholic Church of Christ.

We can but pray "thy will be done" as it assuredly will, together with the hope that in the short term our imperfect understanding will not frustrate that answer to our debate which is the will of God.

Yours faithfully,
C. N. M. van den AREND,
Lavender Cottage, 13 Long Street,
Williton, Taunton, Somerset.
February 24.

From Mr Kenneth Fidler
Sir, The Church of England need not be in disarray, as it undoubtedly is. It simply needs to get back to its basic principles which are excellent and to bold, outspoken preaching by its ministers of the pure word of God and the glorious gospel of salvation which is a sign of the true Church of Christ.

As and when it addresses once more to its basic principles of doctrine and worship we will, with the grace of almighty God, begin to see both a truly united Church of England and a marked change in the spiritual health of our nation.

Yours sincerely,
KENNETH FIDLER,
142 Gloucester Road North,
Tuesbrook,
Liverpool, Merseyside.
February 23.

From Mr L. V. Penzer
Sir, My own opposition to the ordination of women within the Church of England stems quite simply from my difficulty in reconciling the move with our Lord's teachings and because I have yet to hear a single cogent argument in favour of the change. I and others like me are prepared to stand by nearly 2,000 years of customary practice.

If the General Synod of the Church of England should add to its catalogue of errors by agreeing to ordain women I will not leave the Church of England. It would be foolish for me to believe, as some others seem to do, that the ordination of women would, at a stroke, enable me to accept the infallibility of the Pope or much of the sociology of the Roman Church.

I shall remain an Anglo-Catholic; but I will never attend a Holy Eucharist celebrated by a woman as this, for me, would be a service totally without meaning.

Yours faithfully,
LAURIE V. PENZER,
2 Abbey Road, Well End,
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Cold-weather payments

From the Minister for Social Security and Disabled People

Sir, I was glad to note the concern of the Superintendent of the South London Mission (February 27) to help people claim cold-weather payments. However, I would wish to stress the extensive efforts the government has made to ensure that all those entitled to extra help with their heating costs make claims.

Advertisements have been placed in both the local and national press. These include a simple claim form which can be cut out and returned to local social security offices. A cold-weather payments leaflet, available from post offices, advice centres and social security offices, also includes a claim form. In addition, local radio stations have broadcast

information about how to claim. This winter, as in previous years, the government has cooperated with voluntary agencies in providing advice through the Winter Warmth Freeline (0800 289404).

We recognise the urgent need for payment, and local offices are dealing with claims as quickly as possible. Some are working overtime in order to ensure that these special payments reach those particularly vulnerable groups who need help to meet high heating costs during periods of exceptionally cold weather.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SCOTT,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House,
79 Whitehall, SW1.
February 28.

Right to know

From Mr Gordon Malthouse

Sir, May one who delights in the richness and vagaries of the English language point out that if a patient has a right to be informed of his condition as Dr Brennan James asserts (February 26), he is not allowed to exercise it; indeed, as Dr James acknowledges, it all depends on the doctor's assessment of his condition and the wishes of his relatives.

Yours truly,
GORDON MALTHOUSE,
Glebe House, Church Lane,
Chaldon, Surrey.
February 26.

Social origins

From Mrs Mary Baker

Sir, Your leader on the origins of sociology (February 18) made no reference to the Scot, Adam Ferguson (born 1723, the same year as his fellow Scot, Adam Smith), "who is now considered to be the founder of sociology" (David Daiches, 1986).

Ferguson was Professor of Natural Philosophy and of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University in the mid 18th century, and his pioneering work *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, came out in 1767.

An implication that David Hume and Adam Smith were part of the English tradition of political philosophy confirms the feeling that Scots, unless they are causing trouble, are all too easily swept up into a panoply of English achievement.

Yours faithfully,
MARY BAKER,
Johnson Service Building,
4 Royal Mint Court, EC3.
February 18.

On the rostrum

From Professor H. MacL. Currie

Sir, You remind us, in your leader today ("A suit in the street"), that Mr Major "is not a head of state, an imperial leader or an orator". True; but I find in his public utterances a directness, simplicity and dignity which connect him in my mind with Julius Caesar — a man of great constructive vision and ability, whose style admirably suited his sense of purpose.

Whether John Major has ever read any Caesar or not, he is in a notable tradition.

Yours truly,
H. MACL. CURRIE,
Teesside Polytechnic,
Department of Humanities,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.
February 23.

recalls the American actresses Colleen Gray and Colleen Dewhurst. There must be other Dewhursts who will equally resist Mr Howard's attempt to nullify their very existence.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROOM,
12 High Street, St Martin's,
Stamford,
Lincolnshire.
February 22.

Luck of the Irish

From Mr Adrian Room

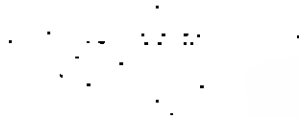
Sir, It is rather cavalier of Philip Howard to say ("Vowel as in 'vowel'", February 22) that the Anglo-Irish word "colleen" "is not used as a given name".

The Australian novelist Colleen McCullough immediately springs to mind, and a moment's thought

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



SIDNEY MICHAELSON



CP

— — — — —

[illegible]

Figure 1

Unfortunately it doesn't make coffee, but we're working on it.

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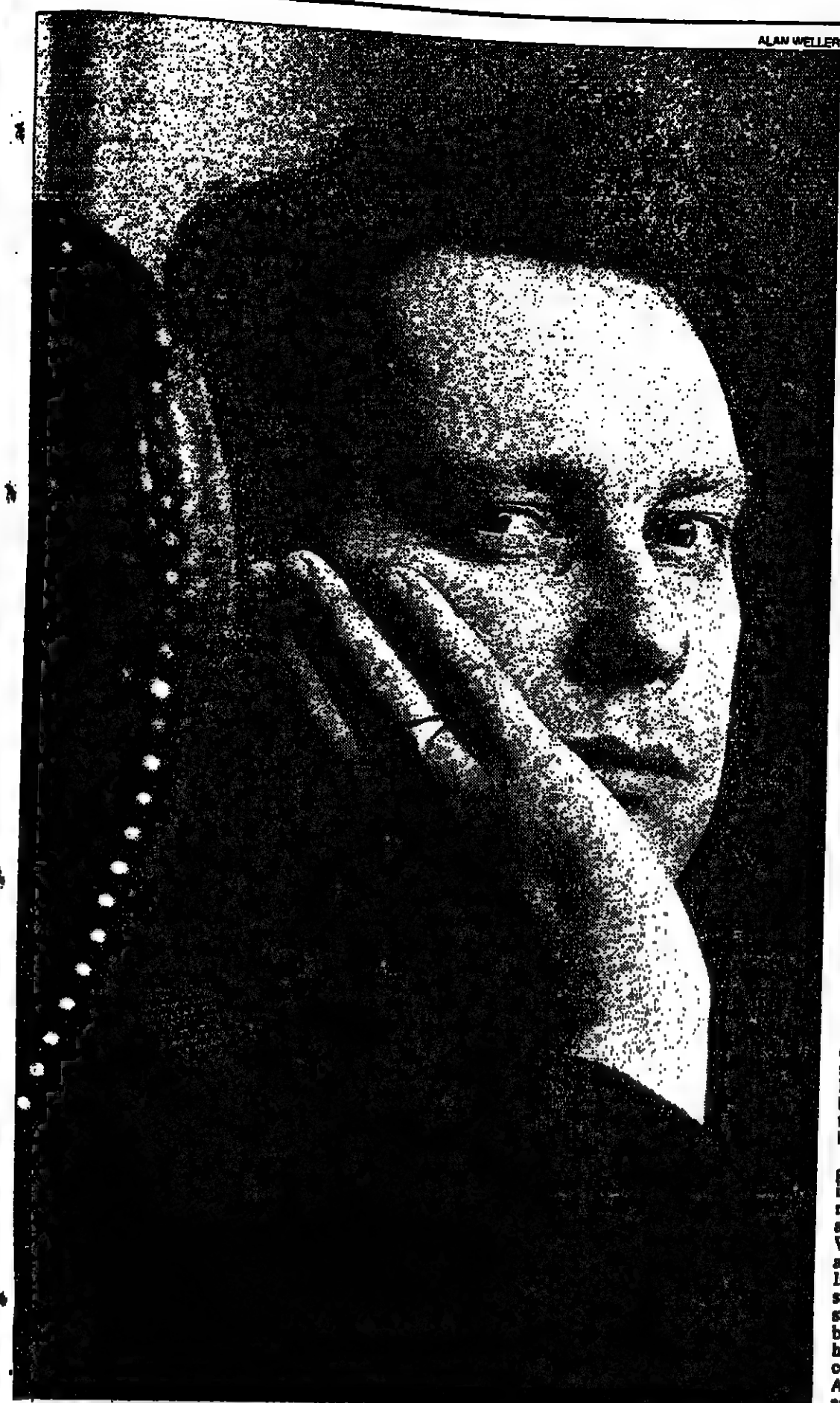
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هكزامن النصح



Straight man: If you start analysing his humour, Vic Reeves says, "you're just wasting your time"

Born with a greasy spoon in his mouth

Kate Muir meets Vic Reeves,
the comedian who has no use for politics,
sexual innuendo or social observation

Vic and Bob have just had lunch at Frank's cafe. He does boiled cabbage and meat pie and mashed potato. "And nice puddin'," says Bob. "They are nice, the puddin'," says Vic. "Bread and butter, and treacle puddin'. Think about them all morning. Come back slightly bloated. Doesn't encourage writing much."

Thus pass the days for comedians Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, hailed as Britain's post-modernist Morecambe and Wise, purveyors of *Vic Reeves Big Night Out*, which started a new series this week on Channel 4, and connoisseurs of bad food. Clearly, cult hero status has not caused the boys to lose touch with their northern roots. No pussyfooting about designer restaurants in London's Notting Hill, bumping into the Richard Jobsons and Robert Elmses of this world. No. Between scriptwriting Reeves and Mortimer like doing proper boysy things such as eating greasy fry-ups in Deptford, going to the pub every night, "drinking moderately — no more than five pints a time", and basking with their mates, and smoking lots of fags.

Their humour is unsophisticated, too. At first *Vic Reeves Big Night Out* reminds you queasily of *Crackerjack* and *It's a Knockout*. But after a few sightings, you notice the audience is laughing before the punchline. This is not because any particular line is funny, just because an atmosphere builds up, which gives the audience that pre-giggle feeling in its stomach, and soon, in the way that Eric Morecambe could be funny by twitching his glasses, everything Reeves does is instantly hysterical. To some.

New heights of banality and general appallingness are reached in every show. Reeves and Mortimer subscribe to the theory that if a joke is bad, it is worth repeating. Which is why every week the audience must suffer Novelty Island, when Reeves in his sharp suit leaves his presenter's desk studded with foot-high horse brasses and walks, holding a white handbag, to compare a talent contest in a small, centre-stage, Astoriated paddock containing acts such as the inanimate Singing Mound, and The Strider, who slithers in a black bin bag. Results

of the contest must be brought to Reeves indirectly, etched inside a kebab, for instance. Thankfully Reeves and Mortimer don't know why any of it is funny either. "If you start analysing it you're just wasting your time," Reeves says.

This second series introduced a new character, a soft, cling-on toy, Morrissey the Consumer Monkey. "Now at first we thought of Freddy Mercury the Consumer Monkey, but somehow Morrissey was naturally right," Reeves explains.

The laughs are oblique to the point of invisibility. The rules of engagement are unclear. "It's always nice at this time of night to place a caramel bar under a rabbit," says Reeves, doing so.

They have been described by comedy analysts as "the surreal humour of little England" and "Maggiesque". There is no politics, or sexual innuendo, or social observation in the act. Just more cultural references than Reeves and Mortimer have had hot meat pies. "It's just childish and stupid, isn't it?" Mortimer says, happily.

Stupidity pays. Mortimer, aged 31, was able to give up his job as a Deptford solicitor to go full-time. Reeves, aged 32, was an art student, a pig farmer and an aircraft parts inspector before running clubs and putting himself on the stage when he considered nobody else to be funny. Then he was the unknown man from Darlington, Jim Mair. He started performing in a "Hogarthian" pub in New Cross, south London, and Mortimer, then merely part of the audience, kept interrupting his act. Moments later, Jim became Vic Reeves, and the two came together in a lasting partnership, packing the Albany Empire in Deptford for three-hour shows, until one day Michael Grade appeared in the Saturday night

queue and made them famous. Now they have also started filming a sitcom called *The Weekenders* for Granada. "Six sort of plays about two men who go away for weekends together looking for excitement," Reeves says, face twisted lasciviously. "We go to a meat festival — two tables in a field, one owned by Phil Oakey [of the Human League] — and a health farm run by latchkey children on a council estate." Mortimer interrupts: "And metal detecting on the Isle of Wight, where we find a colony of pipe dwellers and a well which has Hitler's diaries. Shergar and the Ark of the Covenant and all that down it." "Sixteen jokes a minute, we're trying for," Reeves says.

The series is held together by form rather than content. "We call round for each other, take a form of transport, book into a form of accommodation, and then get chased by some-

one." Does the accommodation take the form of a double bed?

Mortimer (indignant): "No, we've only done one hotel and it was twins."

Reeves (sniggering): "There's nowt saucy about it."

Indeed, it appears that Reeves and Mortimer do their best to avoid excrement in life. Both live alone, and the first thing they do each morning is make a cup of tea and turn on the telly for *Kitroy*. "And then you switch over and it's *The Time... The Place*. Both fabulous," Reeves says. Next, they meet in an ex-railway shed by the Woolwich-Greenwich train lines to write scripts, from 10.30am to 4.30pm, excluding the trip across to Frank's. Behind a door reading "Porters" they have a narrow, dark office, with a large, red leather wing-chair and imposing desk for Reeves, and a small chair for Mortimer. Jools Holland, the television presenter and creator of

Squeeze, rents it to them "for 50 quid a week, and listens at the door all the time". Reeves presides like a Mafia godfather in a grey suit and turban. He gets on the phone to props to order two blue buckets, a travel iron, and some accordions. "And one bucket must have Ryvita in it. Unwrapped — what do you think? About three."

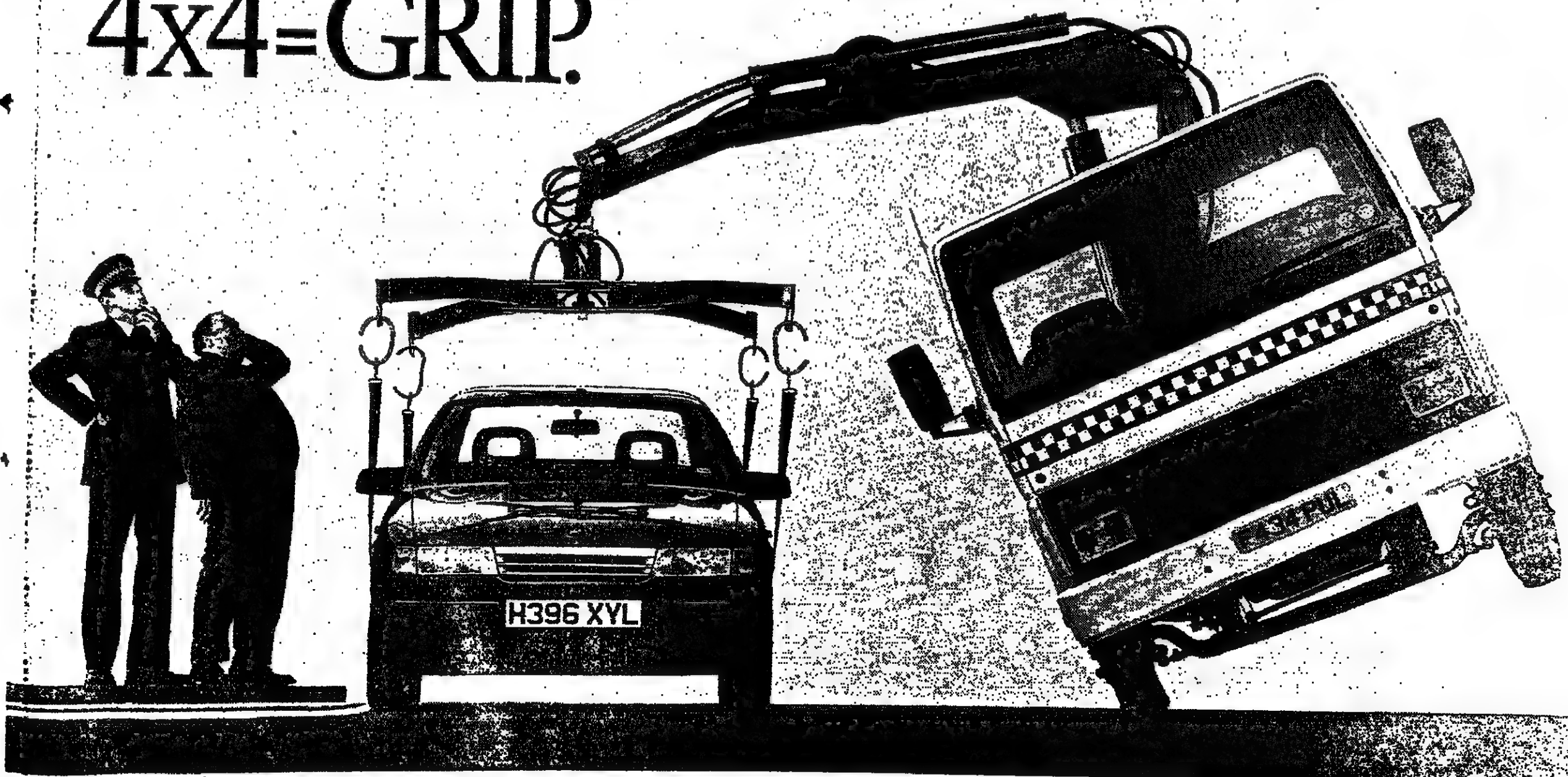
Behind him is a large collection of toy trains and a model of Big Ben. In a corner lurks a new suit, fresh in a plastic bag, and beyond the bounds of good taste. It is black, evilly cut, with grey velvet-covered buttons and collar. Reeves threatens to wear it on the telly next week. He gets his suits from Jimmy Charles in Deptford High Street. "I wouldn't feel right going out there in a T-shirt and jeans. Simple as that really. It's nice and formal as well, and I think it gives more authority to what you're saying. I've got Regency ones, a driving suit with britches and a nice 1790s-style one."

OK. Enough posing. Clearly it is all a game, having an office like a little boy's den when you are really a 32-year-old mortgagee making a lot of money out of a television series with an audience of two million. It is as though Reeves and Mortimer were in some secret club.

Perhaps this is what attracts and keeps their audience of, they claim, "young girls, boys in their twenties and old people". The phrases, constantly repeated, the brand names that are funny for no reason at all, and the long-running absurdities make the loyal fans feel they are part of something, reassured that they are some of the select few who get the joke.

Reeves and Mortimer will not come out of character, perhaps in case the joke is not there at all. Even at home, alone, they maintain a decent distance from reality. Reeves says he would not mind getting married himself sometime, but for the moment he likes it on his own. "You can leave things in the sink for weeks and stand in the corner for a while without attracting comment," he explains. Mortimer gets excited: "And you can pull your undies up right tight, and run round the house." This, like other jokes, goes unexplained. Which is just as well.

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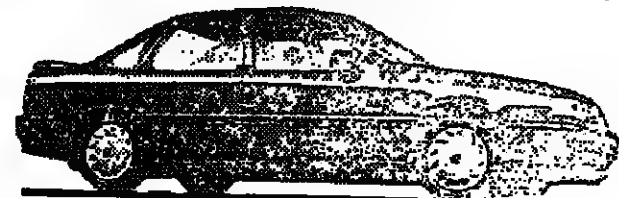
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THEATRE

'Naturalism, like smoking, is bad for your health'

Steven Berkoff's directing career has been a steady ascent: experimental work with his own company in the Sixties, a growing following on the Fringe in the Seventies, tours abroad and the odd West End season in the Eighties and now, productions at the National Theatre where his adaptation of Kafka's *The Trial* opens on Tuesday.

But Berkoff is a maverick figure and his presence at the National is remarkable for three reasons. First, he is an actor; second, all his work has been part of an unrelenting assault on the values of the theatre establishment and third, he has stormed the citadel with a repertoire consisting of only five writers: Aeschylus, Shakespeare, Poe, Kafka and Berkoff.

The key to Berkoff's uncompromising style lies in his fight against naturalism. For him, theatre is much more than an intellectual absorption with text. It is a form through which to express the complexity of our dreams and fantasies. Painting, he says, has grasped this through Surrealism, Expressionism and Cubism. "But in theatre, we are at the stage of the most banal productions. And people actually champion this because it is an art form with no clothes on. We are pretending it is clothed. People discuss it, and they say that, in the end, it's a writer's medium. But it's not. The book is the writer's medium. The written play is only one part of theatre."

The brain is used to functioning at four or five different levels. And when you get a lot of verbiage in theatre, you find the audience starts to fall asleep. The lack of sensory stimulation makes the brain cry out. It's in pain. It goes into a kind of *Angst* situation and cuts off. So in a way, naturalism in the theatre is bad for your health. I

Steven Berkoff, actor, playwright and

champion of physical theatre, talks to

Kenneth Rea about his latest production

would put in on programmes — "Naturalism, like cigarette smoking, is bad for your health" — because it only approaches the audience in a very singular way."

After nearly 30 years in the business, Berkoff's short-cropped hair is greying but the face remains fresh and mobile. Age has not withered him, nor has he lost the flamboyant fury of his youth. He launches into provocative tirades, delivered in carefully articulated tones of such vehemence that you might think he was using you to try out a speech for his next play. Hyperbole is his *métier*. He takes an image, shapes it, and builds it like a tower into clouds of fabulous exaggeration. The vowels are tasted, rolled about, shaped and spat out like invective missiles to take out his prime targets: the shrines of dead theatre. The enemy is the director who refuses or is unable to stretch the full range of the actors' skills. "When I looked around me," says Berkoff referring to some of this country's theatres, "I was saddened by the waste of human bodies, by the waste of the joy, by the destruction of these actors' dreams."

"But that's imperialist theatre. It's got two stars who have all the speeches, and everybody else is a serf, an underling. And they hang about. They usually bring on something, change the set, come on

and say 'My liege'. And then they're off into the green room where they play Scrabble."

In rehearsals Berkoff believes in getting everyone up and working straight away. "Verbal analysis of character in the rehearsal room is a form of evasion," he says. "A director feels incumbent upon himself to inflict verbal constipation upon everyone else. So they'll all sit there for two hours discussing it. But understanding the text and expressing the text are two different things. The act of theatre is the act of a gesture. The gesture comes first, the sound comes second and then they marry in equal harmony."

The aim of this marriage is a highly physical theatre where the words are seared onto your brain with thrilling intensity. And lest anyone doubt the theory, Berkoff the actor proves that it can be done. As the cocky motor-bike hero Milo in *East*, as Herod in *Salome* and now as the outrageous painter, Titorelli, in *The Trial*, Berkoff is an unforgettable force. It is not, as many people think, aggression that fires him, but warm humanity.

Actors find Berkoff the director at once demanding, uncompromising and liberating. "He doesn't create characters in the usual way," says Paul Bentall who is working with him for the first time. "He's got the whole thing in his head and it's a complete structure that he gives you. He shows you, very brilliantly and very quickly. But because it's his baby, he cannot bear things to be not as he sees them. It's practically physically painful for him. Once you can get on his level, you can start doing things and you have real freedom."

Berkoff's method in *The Trial*, as in most of his other work, is to use

all his actors all the time, drawing on their physical skills to create the environment. He learnt the technique, called *figuration*, when studying mime with Jacques Lecoq in Paris. This, he maintains, can stimulate the imagination of the audience more than canvas walls. It can also help make the dislocated world of Kafka's novel strikingly plausible on stage.

"When the guards come to search the accused, Joseph K," he explains, "they search the people and the people become the drawers of the room, then Joseph K becomes a set of drawers. In a way his drawers and the cupboards are as personal to him as his body. A man is what he inhabits. If we're

burgled, we feel violated because they've taken something of us."

Taking the idea further, Berkoff uses his actors in *The Trial* like a surrealistic Greek chorus, sharing the narration, depicting an office full of typists, suggesting endless corridors, even portraying the inside of Joseph K's head. "This acts as a kind of giant magnifying glass," explains Berkoff. "You can create an environment which is so vital that to leave your actors in the dressing room playing *Scrabble* seems a terrible waste."

Ultimately, the vital quality in Berkoff's best work is not its boldness nor its imaginative flair, but the solid precision of its mise-en-scène, which is possible because

he refines his remarkably small output over years, not weeks. Since the first version of *The Trial* at the Roundhouse in 1974, Berkoff has directed it in Germany and Israel and is now attempting what he feels might be the definitive version.

"I try to avoid doing super-market theatre where you use up plays like Kleenex," says Berkoff. "I work on my productions like a concert pianist works on a certain repertoire for a number of years. I keep a play in my repertoire maybe for five or ten years. By then I hope it has a style, an *élan* which gives it something marvellous."

● *The Trial* opens at the Lyttelton, South Bank SE1 (071-928 2252) on Tuesday



Steven Berkoff: "The book is the writer's medium. The written play is only one part of theatre."

BRIEFING

Cornish cream

THE Tate Gallery's plans for a £2.7 million Cornish branch at St Ives are expected to go ahead following Cornwall County Council's decision to commit £600,000 towards the cost of a new building. The rest of the money is to come from the private sector. The Tate's trustees are shortly expected to announce the start of construction, with a possible opening for the gallery in late 1992 or early 1993. The new "Tate of the West" will be dedicated to the painters and sculptors of the St Ives School, which was led by Dame Barbara Hepworth and her husband, Ben Nicholson.

Coastal culture

BOURNEMOUTH has announced an annual international arts festival, to be held over three weeks in June. Having received £140,000 from the local authority for the event, festival director Roy Wales also hopes he can persuade councillors to drop their plans to demolish the Bournemouth Winter Gardens, whose acoustics, he says, are too important to lose.

Last chance...

SEEMING ITALY by Moonlight seems a romantic idea. And so it is, though the painters who invented this concept come as often before as after the dawn of the Romantic movement. Earlier on they usually sought a religious excuse; later the charms and chills of moonlight became a subject in themselves. The show, *Italy by Moonlight*, at the Accademia Italiana (071-225 3474), is full of unexpected delights; it closes tomorrow.

RECORDS: ROCK

Growling route to heaven

Chris Rea: *Auberge* (eastwest 9031-73580-2)
Havana 3AM: *Havana 3AM* (IRS ERS 1047)
Free: *The Best of Free - All Right Now* (Island ILPTV2)
Rick Astley: *Free* (RCA PL74898)
Bevis and Twink: *Magic Eye* (Woronzow WOO 13)

WITH its gentle, rosy charm and deceptively easy gait, *Auberge* confirms Chris Rea as a natural choice for the emergent generation of armchair rockers. The songs are generally more upbeat than was the case on Rea's last album, *The Road to Hell*, and the grim warnings of eco-disaster and industrial decay have given way here to a more tranquil collection of images and themes in songs like "Gone Fishing", "Heaven" and "Auberge" itself.

The consummate technical excellence which is second nature to Rea has been bolstered by a new factor in Jon Kelly's production process which gives Rea's hallmark growl a super-clear presence in the mix; while the languid, blue-guitar passages which grace "And You My Love" and "Looking for the Summer" rank among the best performances of his recording career.

With the Clash's gloriously slobbish anthem "Should I Stay or Should I Go" currently at No 5 in the chart, thanks to the "pool-hall" Levi's jeans advertisement, the time is ripe for the launch of bass player Paul Simonon's new group, Havana 3AM.

Their debut album, *Havana*, abounds with a variety of



Rea: languid guitar

rather self-consciously absorbed influences — Tex-Mex, Latin American and 1950s rock 'n' roll — all bundled together by Gary Myrick's fashionably twanging guitar and presented with a carefully applied gloss of rebel chic. The smart money is still on an eventual Clash reunion.

Also enjoying revived Top-10 honours this week thanks to a television commercial is the Free classic "All Right Now". In its wake comes a compilation album *The Best of Free - All Right Now*, which underlines the enduring magnetism of that great band's unique approach to the blues-rock idiom.

The 14 songs have all been

remixed by Bob Clearmountain, and apart from one or two over-liberal applications of echo to Paul Rodgers's gritty vocals, he has conjured enhanced clarity while resisting the temptation to meddle with the intent of the original productions.

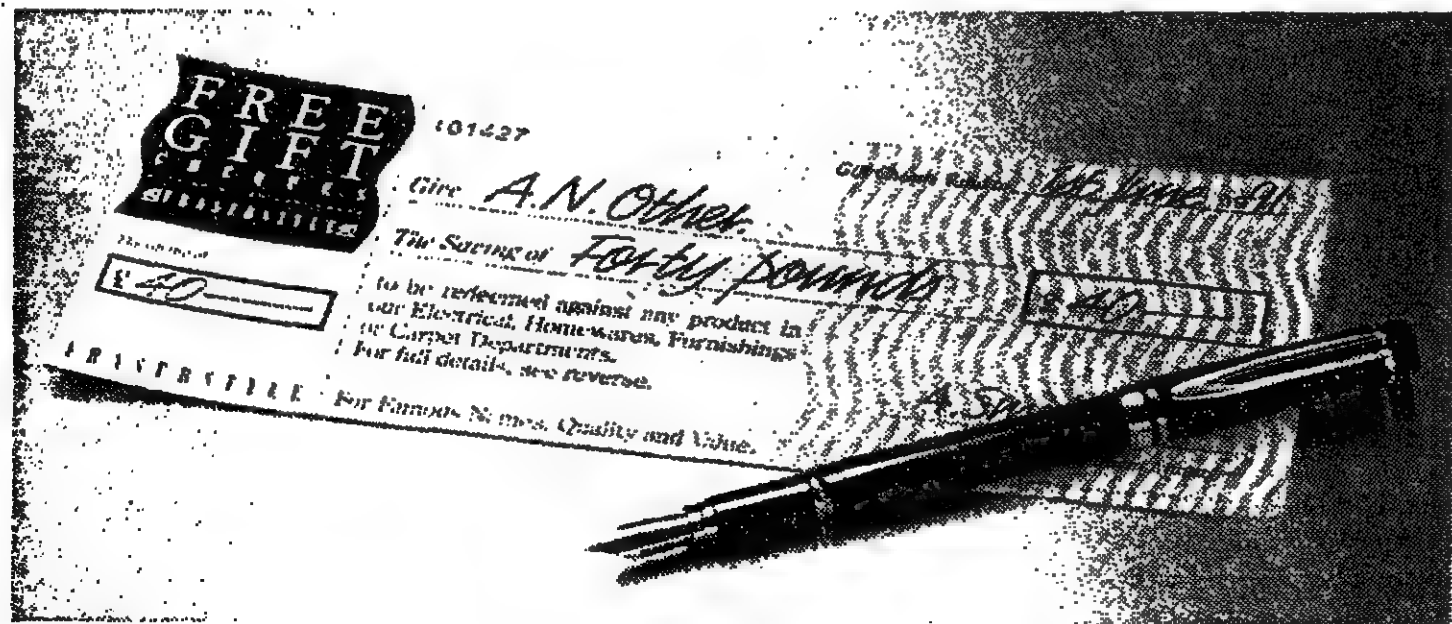
Rather like their near contemporaries, Cream, Free were a group of wild, pioneering talents, whose influence on subsequent rock trends has not always been benign. While the macho-man thrust of the lyrics occasionally strikes a discordant note, the extraordinary tension and vitality of songs like "The Stealer", "Mr Big" and "Fire and Water" remain undiminished.

Apart from the length of his hair, surprisingly little has changed about Rick Astley since his departure from the Stock Aitken Waterman fold. Much of his album *Free* is in a vaporous, "sincere" pop vein. It is a skillfully crafted and smoothly executed affair that leaves the full range of his soulful voice untested.

The Bevis Frond (aka Nick Saloman) and Twink (former drummer of the Pink Fairies and the Pretty Things) are an antediluvian pair of survivors from the first wave of English acid-heads, and something of an unsung influence on the legion of young psychedelic bands currently making their mark. *Magic Eye* is a curious amalgam of stoned Neil-of-the-Young-Ones-type imagery ("Flying Igloos", "The Fairy") and full-throttle, lysergical rock; a fascinating item for students of ancient hippie arts.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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The Eliminator explained

By JOHN GRANT

● The Eliminator crossword puzzle, published on Thursday, February 21, was intentionally difficult as its purpose was to reduce the number of qualifiers for the Bristol and London Regional finals of *The Times* Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship to manageable proportions.

● About two thirds of the clues were of the same standard as the ordinary daily puzzle. The explanations of the remainder are as follows:

ACROSS

1 Ptolemy's astronomical treatise of the mid-2nd century: ALMA-GEST, homophone of jest.

5 Balinibarbi: the country subject to the king of Laputa in *Gulliver's Travels*, of which Lagado is the capital, and where the scientists tried to extract sunlight from cucumbers.

10 CO in MAN (verb).

11 Rhodopsin (visual purple) is the light-sensitive chemical of the rods in the retina of the eye which help night vision.

12 Gravamina: plural of gravamen, a memorial from Lower House of Convocation to Upper on disorders or grievances of the church; GR (ey) MINA round A.V.A.

14 Horse, a frame or trestle for sawing on.

16 "Yet each man kills the thing he loves..." — The coward does it with a kiss — The Ballad of Reading Gaol.

19 TROSSACHS minus CHs (Companions of Honour) reversed.

21 Of Styx (homophone sticks), the principal river of Hades.

DOWN

2 Books of the Maccabees in the Apocrypha.

4 Service, European tree of genus *sorbus*, whitebeam.

9 "He smote the sledged Polacks on the ice" — Horatio of Hamlet's father (also Hamlet) (I.i.63).

18 T(h)e E(xpert) in the words on the Cross, initially, Jesus Nazaremus Rex Iudaeorum, ie. INRI + OR = INTERIOR.

21 The Hon. Samuel Slumkey, successful Blue candidate in the Estanswill election. "He has kissed one of 'em... he has kissed another... he's kissing 'em all!" — The Pickwick Papers.

Solution grid, page 24

Black cloud over metropolis

'Before, money was tight, but since, there is just no money at all.'

John Russell Taylor finds economic hard times starting to bite into the artistic life of a former City of Culture

This was true as long as West Berlin was isolated and required to make a political point. Now that it is just another German city, albeit a unusually large one, the tightening of belts has begun. All public museums and galleries have had to cut their overall budget this year by 11.5 per cent, which means that the number of reversible costs have also been cut; it is the exhibition programmes which lose out. The Berlinsche Galerie, for instance, has had to cancel its entire exhibition programme from June onwards. At least it does not have to deal with the

The cultural budget for West Berlin has been running at DM 500-600 million (£175-205 million) a year. It is estimated that at least DM 400 million would be needed for the East to achieve a sort of parity, but instead the established amount is being cut and has to be spread over the whole city. Programmes such as the artist support fund, which bought new art and helped to subsidise studio space, have ceased. As Jörn Merkert, director of the Berlinische Galerie, observes: "We thought the Wall protected them. Now we realise that it protected us, too."

The most exciting current show in Berlin is that drawn from the Fishman Collection. The lustre of a handful of famous names from the first wave of Expressionism and, later, the harshly critical world of the Neue Sachlichkeit, has tended to blind everybody to the existence of other tra-

The collection is also strong in members of one of the parallel movements, the so-called November Group. In particular, the artist, one-time emigré to Britain and still thriving in his hundredth year, dazzles with his unsparring observation mitigated by a peewy and irresistible humour. Josef Schart, with vibrant colours and a misanthropic sense of laying out on canvas the organised swirly, has always been too isolated for wide popularity. Bruno Voigt, on the other hand, is perhaps too easily mistaken for some famous fellow such as Grosz to stand out on his own, but his savage political commentary is powerfully evocative of their

For another outstanding show one must undertake the journey across the long-closed Potsdam Bridge, during which conspicuous consumption gives way within a few yards to pervasive decay. The Filmmuseum in Potsdam, which is dusty rather than decayed, contains a stunning show for the centenary of Fritz Lang which, taking its cue from his beginnings as a sculptor, explores exhaustively the sources of his visual

This is one of those cross-disciplinary shows which is compelling from all angles. There should be a catalogue to keep all it together in permanent form. But alas, there is not. When I inquired after one the museum replied sadly that *before*, money was tight enough, but *since*, there is just no money at all. What they are now feeling, the whole of Berlin may soon experience.

Art in Germany 1989-1993:
Martin-Gropius-Bau, Stresemannstrasse 110, Berlin (25 48 60), until April 28.
Fritz Lang: Filmbilder und Vorbilder. Filmmuseum, Am Karl-Liebknecht-Forum 1, Potsdam (2 41 06), until March 30.



Detail from Bruno Voigt's "Attack": a powerful evocation of the troubled pre-Hitler era

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Ceeba** 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**
8.15 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Gibbs chairs a studio debate on people who go missing 9.55 **Regional News** and weather
10.00 **News 10.05 Playdays** (r) 10.30 **Dish of the Day**. More culinary ideas from Rosemary Moon 10.40 **Brainwave**. Quiz show
11.00 **News**, regional news and weather 11.05 **People Today**. A daily look at the lives of people across the UK
12.00 **News**, regional news and weather
12.05 **Royal Appointment**. The Queen's former press secretary, Ronald Allison, presents royal profiles, interviews and news of forthcoming engagements 12.20 **Scene Today**. Judi Spiers and Alan Titchmarsh introduce live entertainment from Pebble Mill, joined by Simon Potter for news and gossip from the Showbiz File 12.55 **News**, regional news and weather
1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.30 **Neighbours**. (Ceeba) 1.50 **Going for Gold**. Quiz show
2.15 **Film: For the First Time** (1950). The sentimental tale of an overweight tenor (Mario Lanza) who embarks on a tour of European cities to raise money for his deaf girlfriend's medical treatment. With Johanna von Koozen and Zsa Zsa Gabor. The music includes operatic works by Giuseppe Verdi. Directed by Rudolph Mates
3.50 **Henry's Cat**. Cartoon (r) 4.05 **Jackanory's Silver Stories**. Jonathan Morris reads Dick King-Smith's *A Narrow Square* 4.20 **Fantastic Max**. Cartoon (r) 4.30 **Eye Spy**. Spymaster Julian Parkin puts four would-be spies through their paces
4.55 **Newsround Extra 5.10 Grange Hill**. Episode 15 of the children's drama set in a London comprehensive school. (Ceeba)
5.55 **Neighbours** (r). (Ceeba) Northern Ireland: Sportsweek 5.40 **Inside Out**
6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Peter Sissons and Andrew Harvey. Weather
6.30 **Regional News** Magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 **Wogan**. Tonight's guests include England cricketer David Gower, *Ad Lib* Michael Gibson, who plays Herk Flack, and John Louis Mansi who is Von Smallhausen. Plus a song from Rita MacNeil
7.40 **Joint Account**. More forced laughs from this same comedy series about a female bank manager and her housebound hubby. With Hannah Gordon and Peter Egan (r). (Ceeba)
8.10 **Over My Dead Body**. Carrie Christmas and a Nappy interview. Routine American murder mystery series starring Edward Woodward as crime writer/journalist sleuth, Max Beckler, who is helped by his journalist friend Nikki (Jessica Lundy). When Nikki goes Christmas shopping the last thing she expects to return with is a baby. Max is called in to help her track down the abandoned toddler's mother (Ceeba)
9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Mervyn Lewis. (Ceeba) Regional news
9.30 **10.00** **Myths from the Bush**. Variable comedy-drama set in Australia about the exploits of a middle-aged double act (Tim Healy and Chris Haywood) running Melbourne Confidential, an agency which will answer any call. Northern Ireland: The Show 10.15 **The Boys from the Bush**



Intense portrayal of a maverick cop: Al Pacino (10.30pm)

10.30 **Film: Serpico** (1973).
9 CHOICE: In between his Michael Corleone in the two parts of *The Godfather* (part two is on BBC2 tomorrow) Al Pacino moved to the right side of the law to play a cop determined to stamp out corruption in the New York force. He is no orthodox hero. He is a good guy but a maverick, honest and obsessive, often impossible to deal with, alienating his colleagues as much by his unconventional dress as his refusal to take bribes. Pacino's intense performance won him an Oscar nomination. He is well supported by a non-stellar cast. Based on a true case, *Serpico* is an ideal subject for the liberal sympathies of the director, Sidney Lumet, and gains texture from Lumet's effective use of New York locations. The style is deliberately choppy and episodic, the tone often bleak and the ending ambiguously doubled-edged. *Waste: Ray Noble: An Evening of International Rugby* 10.50 *Lazarus and Driveway* 11.20 *Film: Serpico*. Northern Ireland: 11.05-1.00am *Film: Serpico*
12.25am **News and weather**. Ends at 12.35. Wales: 1.25am **News and weather**

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Motion**. Ends at 7.10
8.00 **News 8.15 Westminster**
9.00 **Daytime on Two**. Maths for adults 9.10 **Teaching today** 9.40 **Standard Grade History** 10.00 **Learning to read** 10.20 **Around Scotland** 10.40 **Music** 11.00 **Watch** 11.15 **Computers** 11.30 **GCSE Seminar** 11.45 **Care and conservation** 12.00 **Good sport** 12.20 **Scene** 12.50 **GCSE Literature** 1.20 **The Brothly**. Cartoon 1.40 **English**
2.00 **News and weather** followed by **Words and Pictures** 2.15 **Weekend Outlook**. A preview of Open University programmes (r)
2.20 **Sport on Friday** introduced by Helen Rolston. Featuring Basketball: the National All Star game between teams representing the north and the south at the Granby Hall, Leicester. The commentators are Paul Dickinson and Bill Bewick; and Rugby Union: a preview of tomorrow's five nations' championship matches in which Ireland play England in Dublin and Wales are in Paris where they have not beaten France since 1975. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50
4.00 **Catchword**. Word quiz with the scruffy Paul Cole
4.30 **Fighting Talk**. Michael Winner, producer, director and enfant terrible of the British film industry, defends graphic portrayals of violence in art, citing as examples Shakespeare and his own *Death Wish* films. Anna Kather challenges as Winner accuses British cinema of prudish hypocrisy
5.00 **Top Gear**. William Woollam reports from the Rembrandt in Paris. Plus a look at on-air motor racing in Chamonix and the merits of diesel cars (r)
5.30 **Food and Drink**. Epicure Chris Kelly, Michael Barry and Jill Golden present the last in the series by sampling cuisine recipes (r)
6.00 **Film: Barstow in the Park** (1987). Robert Redford and Jon Secor star as New York newsmen who leave the luxury of their honeymoon hotel for a dingy cold-water apartment block in Greenwich Village, complete with eccentric neighbours and a hole in the roof. She is enchanted with her new home, while he is less than won by his new life. Redford and Secor put in attractive performances but the film lacks the wit of Neil Simon's original stage play. Directed by Gene Seitz
7.45 **What the Papers Say**. With Richard Littlejohn of *The Sun*
8.00 **Public Eye: Black People**. White Justice. The number of black people in prison will reach record levels this year. Jenny Cuff examines claims of widespread racism in Britain's criminal justice system and reveals that while black people only 5 per cent of the population at large, they account for 15 per cent of the people in prison
8.30 **Gardeners' World**. The daffodil, eclipsed by Wordworth, is celebrated by Dr Stefan Buczacki who traces its history from Greek legend to Easter greetings cards. (Ceeba)
9.00 **Lazarus and Driveway**. This year's Year Lucky Day. The ace detectives of the Really Serious Crime Squad tackle the case of the tabloid astrologer who failed to predict his own death. Stephen Frost and Mark Arden are the comic duo. (Ceeba)
9.30 **Arden: Caroline 1991 - A Pirate's Tale**.
9 CHOICE: The story of Radio Caroline, the pirate station which first broadcast from a ship off Falklands on Easter Sunday 1964, is told by those principally involved, not least the station's flamboyant founder, Rohan O'Rahilly. The idea contained an element of schoolboy prank, but also a desire to give pop fans what they wanted when the BBC was only giving them Alan Freeman for an hour a week. Caroline soon had audiences of 20 million and the BBC reacted by setting up Radio 1. O'Rahilly was also inspired by the youth revolution of John F. Kennedy. Caroline was named after Kennedy's daughter. The upstart brought a very conservative response from Labour's postmaster-general who, in the words of one of the Caroline team, "thundered the hell out of us". In the film the same Tony Benn accuses Caroline of not being radical enough, which may say more about him than the station
10.30 **Newsnight** presented by Peter Snow 11.15 **Weather**
11.20 **Film: Experiment in Murder** (1956). A brief adulterous fling leaves a scientist as the prime suspect in a murder enquiry. While the police ransack his laboratory, his wife begins an investigation of her own in this fast and stylish thriller from Sweden. Starring Per Maltstrom and Gosta Ekman. In Swedish with English subtitles. Directed by Jon Lindstrom. Ends at 1.05am



A pirate of the airwaves: Rohan O'Rahilly in 1966 (8.30pm)

ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am**
6.25 **Gulf News Report**. Latest news and developments from the war zone 9.55 **Thames News** and weather
10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** John Stapleton chairs a discussion on dyslexia and what can be done about it
10.45 **This Morning**. Family magazine programme presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan
12.05 **Rainbow**. Children's educational entertainment 12.25 **Thames News** and weather
12.30 **News with John Suchet**. Weather
1.20 **Home and Away**. Australian drama serial about a couple and their foster children 1.50 **A Country Practice**. Soap set around a rural Australian community health centre
2.20 **Snooker: The Pearl Assurance**. British Open. Tony Francis introduces the opening exchanges in the two best-of-17-frame semi-finals from the Assembly Rooms, Derby
3.15 **ITN News**. Latest news headlines 3.25 **The Young Doctors**. Australian drama which charts the ups and downs of both staff and patients of a large city hospital
3.55 **Utahry Brilliant**. In the last of the series Jimmy Mallett discovers how to make musical instruments from junk
4.20 **Cartoon**

Pat Sharp, with twins Melanie and Martina Grant (4.30pm)

- 4.30 **Fun House**. Stupidest game show presented by Pat Sharp
5.00 **Home and Away** (r)
5.30 **News with Fiona Armstrong** (Ceeba) Weather
6.00 **6 O'Clock Live** introduced by Frank Bough. Includes reports on London building contractors preparing to work in Kuwait; private schools that are feeling the pinch due to the recession; and the GND helping a south London school put on its first opera
6.55 **The Day**. Twenty-four hours with the Operation Raleigh organisation
7.00 **The \$64,000 Question**. The smiling Bob Monkhouse challenges the contestants as they attempt to make their way to the final round
7.30 **Coronation Street**. Another slice of northern life (Ceeba)
8.00 **Gulf News Report** followed by **Surprise! Surprise! Cilla Black** hosts the show which gives viewers the chance to see their dreams come true. She is aided by Bob Carlisle and by Gordon Burne who introduces *Coronation Street*
8.30 **The Trials of Rosie O'Neill**. Another case for Sharon Glass as the spirited public defender. When Rosie fails to get a light sentence for one of her clients, her mother is furious and puts a voodoo curse on her. The curse may well be real as Rosie's day is dogged by a series of minor but annoying upsets. (Ceeba)
9.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Trevor McDonald (Ceeba)
9.30 **Weather** 10.35 **LWT News** and weather
10.45 **The London Programme**. An important side-effect of famine and war around the world has been the increasing number of refugees trying to enter Britain. New international legislation means that Britain must admit many of them, but London's council are already complaining that they are the brunt of the influx. It is also widely suspected that the refugees are being exploited. Trevor Phillips investigates
11.15 **Snooker: The Pearl Assurance**. British Open. Further coverage from the Assembly Rooms, Derby. Introduced by Tony Francis
12.40 **Gulf News Report**
12.45 **Dirty Dancing**. Spin-off from the hit film. Followed by **Gulf Report**
1.15 **The James White Radio Show**. Late night phone-in chat show
1.15 **World of Music**. Rusty introduced by John Hargley
2.45 **News at Ten**. Rock videos
3.45 **Cinematracks**. The latest from the US box office
4.15 **Sid Tips** presented by Liz Wickham and Andy Staggall
4.45 **Cooking With Kurma**. Vegetarian fare
5.00 **ITN Morning News** with Anne Laurence. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**
9.25 **Schools** 12.00 **Channel 4 News** summary
12.05 **The Parliament Programme** presented by Sue Cameron
12.30 **Business Daily**. Financial and business news service
1.00 **Sesame Street**. Entertaining educational programme for pre-school children
2.00 **The Complete Skier**. Ski instruction programme. How to choose the best type of ski for your level of ability (r)
2.30 **Film: 711 Ocean Drive** (1950, b/w). Robust exposé thriller starring Edmond O'Brien as a wireless expert who is swept into a corrupt bookies' syndicate. O'Brien's skills are ideal for monitoring events on distant race tracks and when the leader of the group is murdered O'Brien takes his place, teaming up with the head of an eastern syndicate (Otto Kruger). But the two fall out, leading to a memorable climax at the Hoover Dam. The film was made at a time when bookmaking scandals were hitting the headlines and America's bookies reacted so strongly to the project that the director, Joseph H. Newman, the technicians and the actors had to seek police protection. Joanne Dru provides the romantic interest
4.30 **Countdown**. Richard Whitley presents the words and numbers game with guest Ned Sherrin
5.00 **Not on Sunday**. Includes a look at the impact on the Church of Ireland of its decision to ordain women priests; and how big businesses are encouraging their employees to develop spiritual insights to help them through bad times
5.30 **Sumo**. The Japanese wrestling sense with coverage of the 1990 Aki Basho
6.00 **Happy Days**. Comedy with teenagers in Fifties small-town America
6.30 **Tonight With Jonathan Ross**. The guests are singer Dave Lee Roth and boxer Chris Eubank. Plus music from Albert Collins and Robert Cray
7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi (Teletext)
7.50 **First Reaction**. Geoffrey Cannon, a former editor of *Radio Times*, discusses the rash of new television listings magazines. Followed by *Weather*
8.00 **Brookside**. Soap set in a suburban Liverpool cul-de-sac. (Teletext)
8.30 **Travelog**. Robert Elms presents the travel show for those looking for something different. Irma Kurtz and Sir Roy Strong gain a taste for country housewains in Herefordshire
9.00 **Cheers**. Award-winning comedy centring on the conversation of locals in a Boston bar. Woody feels guilty when he makes an advert for a fast-tasting vegetable drink. (Teletext)



Down to earth presenters Biggs, Pow, Lancaster (8.30pm)

- 9.30 **Garden Club**.
9 CHOICE: A six-part series presented by Rebecca Pow (of *All Muck and Magic*), Roy Lancaster and Matthew Biggs aims to defeat the criticism that television gardening programmes deal with a fantasy world where soil runs through the fingers and weeds on Garden Club's soil are sent into the garden. A series of gardeners, mostly not yet more experts, but amateur gardeners with everyday problems. In basing the show around the queries of the ordinary man and woman, its emphasis on local climate and soil and its seasonal tips, Garden Club has clearly picked up a trick or two from radio's indispensable *Gardeners' Question Time*. In tonight's opening programme Pow and her guests are on location in the Kentish area in the Midlands and also visit the fine collection of herbaceous and snowdrops at the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens. (Teletext)
10.00 **Roseanne**. Outrageous family comedy with Roseanne Barr and John Goodman. Roseanne feels it's time she should explain the facts of life to Becky
10.30 **Whose Line Is It Anyway?** Clive Anderson referees another edition of the improvisation show with guests Mike McGinley, Paul Merton, Jim Swirey and Steve Schatz
11.00 **The Word**. The latest in the series of music, gossip, trivia and chat with Amanda de Cadenet, Michelle Collins and Terry Christian. The guests are Hale and Pace, Charlie Sheen, Vanilla Ice and River Phoenix
12.00 **Channel 4 News** - Midnight Special. Ends at 2.00am

TV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
As London except 6.00pm-6.30pm *Katie and Dog* 6.00 *Home and Away* 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* 10.45-11.15 *The Evening News* 11.45-1.15am *Anglia*
BORDER
As London except 1.00-2.00 *Peppercorn* 6.00 *Lookaround* 6.30-7.00 *Tales of the High Road* 10.45-11.15 *The World of Clive* 12.45am-1.15am *The World of Clive* 2.15 *The Young Riders* 3.10 *High Road* 4.10-5.00 *Space*
CENTRAL
As London except 6.00pm-6.30pm *My Secret Garden* 6.00 *Home and Away* 6.25-7.00 *Central News* 10.45-11.15 *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* 12.45am-1.15am *The Twilight Zone* 2.15 *Film: My Favourite Year* 4.05-5.00 *The Hit Men* 5.00-6.00 *Space*
GRANFAN
As London except 1.00pm-2.00 *Sore and Daughters* 6.00 *North Tonight* 6.30-7.00 *Top Gun* 10.45-11.15 *Peter Merchant* 12.45am-1.15am *The Young Riders* 2.15 *High Road* 4.10-5.00 *Space*

GRANADA

- ANGLIA**
As London except 6.00pm-6.30pm *Katie and Dog* 6.00 *Home and Away* 6.25-7.00 *Anglia News* 10.45-11.15 *The Evening News* 11.45-1.15am *Anglia*
BORDER
As London except 1.00-2.00 *Peppercorn* 6.00 *Lookaround* 6.30-7.00 *Tales of the High Road* 10.45-11.15 *The World of Clive* 12.45am-1.15am *The World of Clive* 2.15 *The Young Riders* 3.10 *High Road* 4.10-5.00 *Space*
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As London except 1.00pm-2.00 *Sore and Daughters* 6.00 *North Tonight* 6.30-7.00 *Top Gun* 10.45-11.15 *Peter Merchant* 12.45am-1.15am *The Young Riders* 2.15 *High Road* 4.10-5.00 *Space*

SATellite

- SKY ONE**
As the Astra and Mariposa satellites.
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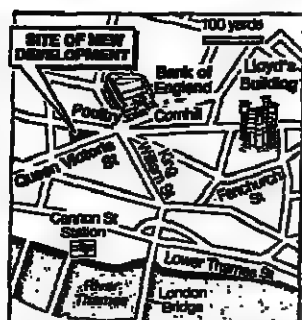
Mappin & Webb building must make way for 'the 1930s wireless block'

Palumbo victory over City site

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

LORD Palumbo yesterday won the final round in his long-running legal fight to go ahead with the redevelopment scheme for the Mappin & Webb site in the City of London that involves the replacement of eight listed Victorian buildings with a block described by the Prince of Wales as resembling a "1930s wireless".

The House of Lords allowed an appeal by Lord Palumbo and his companies that own the one-acre site opposite the Mansion House against a Court of Appeal decision last March quashing planning permission given by Nicholas



Ridley, the former environment secretary. Lord Palumbo said that the decision "on this historic and auspicious day is most welcome. It is a vote of confidence in the City of

London and it will result in an exciting new building designed by James Stirling, a British architect of international renown, in the heart of the capital."

Because of preparations for archaeological work and road closures, demolition will not begin until next year. The new office and shops should be completed in three years.

The ruling by five law lords meant defeat for the conservation group Save Britain's Heritage which had challenged the proposals in what it regarded as an important test case for the future preservation of listed buildings.

Save was ordered to pay the developer's costs, which are estimated at more than £150,000, and the organisation immediately said a public appeal would be necessary to raise the money.

Marcus Binney, president of Save, said they deeply regretted the loss of the listed buildings and were concerned that the presumption in favour of listed buildings would now be under constant attack. Although the judgment rejected the notion that the decision should be taken as a precedent, Mr Binney said that "every developer from now on will argue his particular case is special and that his proposed building, site or location is unique and should be granted consent because it is better than those on the site."

English Heritage also expressed disappointment at the decision which "will result in the loss of a fine group of listed Victorian buildings in an important conservation area in the City of London."

Supporting the decision, the Royal Institute of British Architects said it was delighted that Lord Palumbo's commitment to the highest quality of architecture and the future of the City of London had been finally rewarded. "I am sure it will be treasured by future generations of Londoners," a spokesman said.

In his judgment Lord Bridge said the controversy over the case arose from differences of opinion about traditional and contemporary architectural styles. "These arouse strong feelings, but are no concern whatever of the courts."

Twenty-year battle for listed buildings

By OUR PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE decision that Lord Palumbo should be allowed to demolish the listed buildings in the City of London for redevelopment came after two decades of planning to redevelop the Mappin & Webb site opposite the Mansion House.

Two public enquiries and several court hearings were needed to resolve the question of whether the proposal should be allowed to override conservation policy that favours the preservation of listed buildings.

The site includes eight listed buildings - including the old established jewellers Mappin & Webb building - designed in the 1870s in "commercial Gothic" by J & J Becher. After assembling the site, No 1 Foulry, on the corner of Foulry and Queen Victoria Street, Peter Palumbo (who was ennobled in Margaret Thatcher's resignation honours) put forward a scheme including a tower designed by Mies van der Rohe. That was subject of a public enquiry in 1985 and rejected. The decision said that redevelopment might not be ruled out if there were "acceptable proposals" for replacing the existing buildings.

Later that year Mr Palumbo appointed James Stirling, who had given evidence in support of the Mies van der Rohe scheme, to design a new

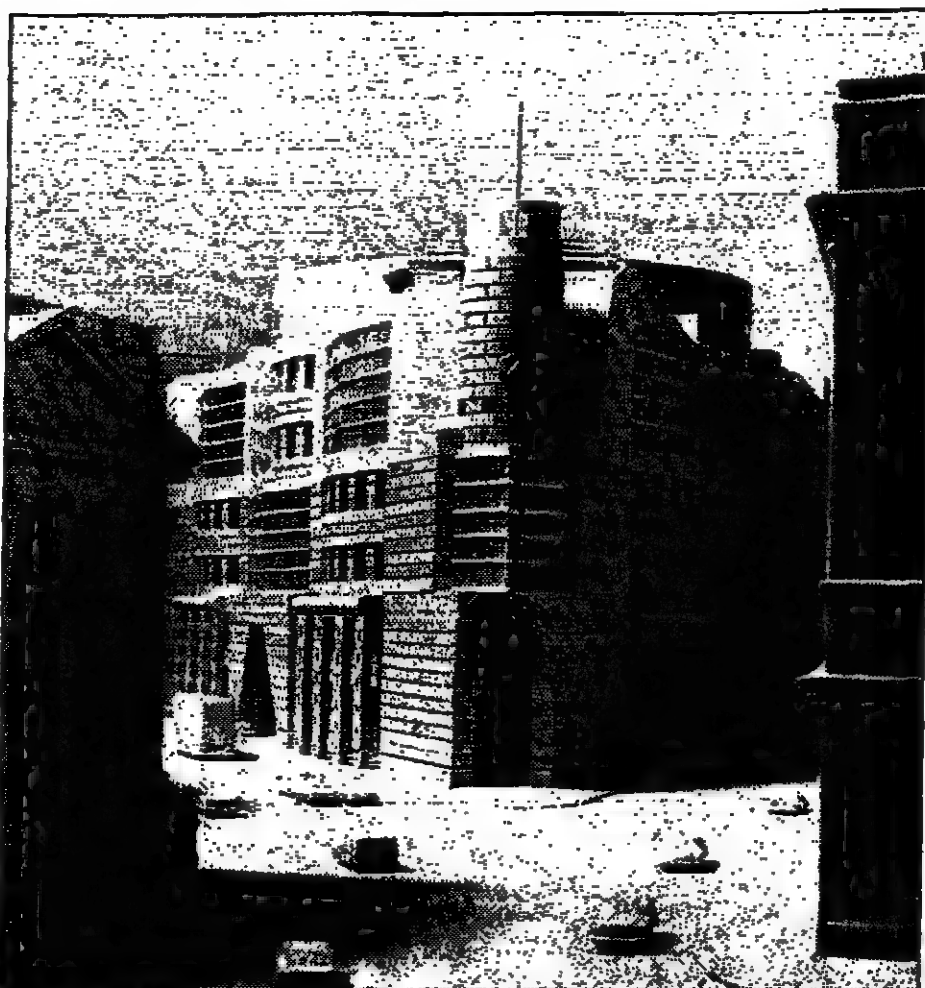
development of offices and shops. The brief was for a building that was a "fine work of architecture, both modern and monumental."

Opposition came from the City of London corporation, English Heritage and conservation groups led by Save Britain's Heritage (Save), but the enquiry inspector, Brian Bagot, concluded that the proposals would contribute more both to the immediate environment and to the architectural heritage. Nicholas Ridley, then environment secretary, accepted the inspector's report.

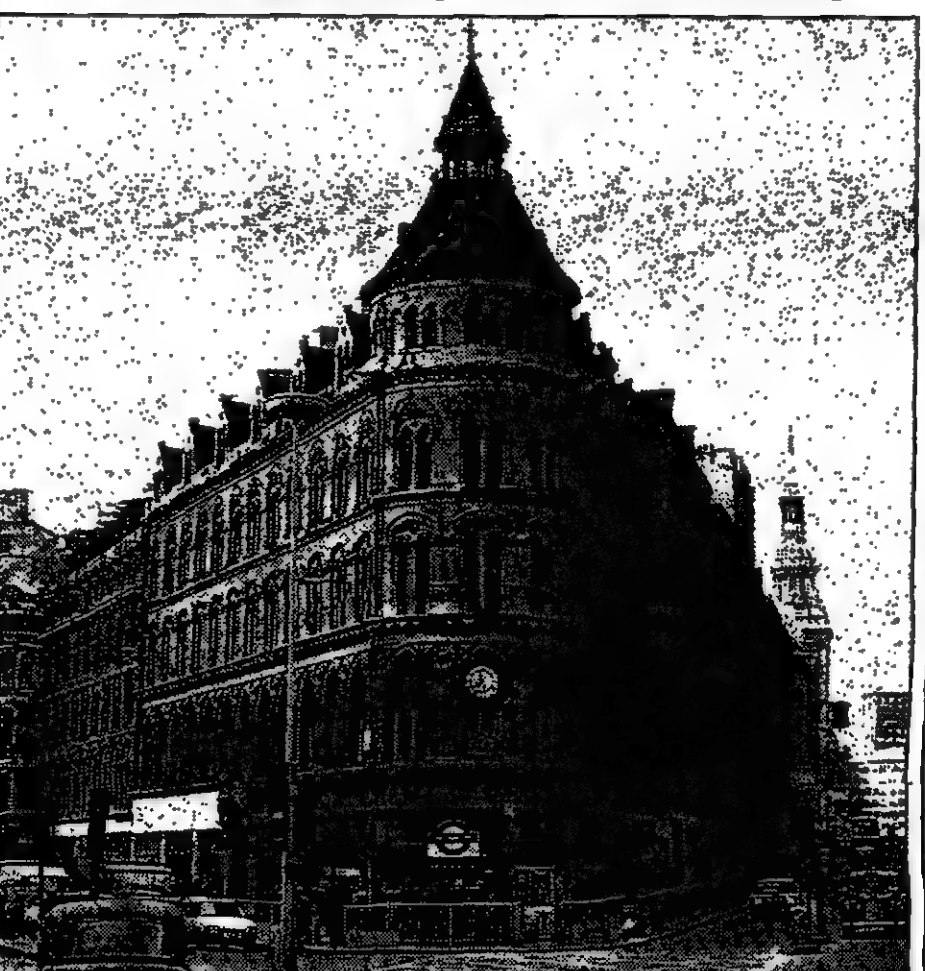
At this point the City of London and other bodies dropped out of the controversy, leaving Save to appeal alone against the decision.



Palumbo yesterday: "A fine work of architecture"



Artist's impression of James Stirling's "modern and monumental" building



The existing commercial Gothic Mappin & Webb building designed in the 1870s

Political sketch

A day of thanks ... and thinks

THE mother of battles having culminated in the mother of victories, the PM came down to the Commons yesterday for the mother of parliamentary statements. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the mother-in-law of battles, made a rare intervention. The mother of curmudgeons, Ted Heath (Old Bexley & Sidcup), who has opposed this war from the start, came down to sulk.

His mood was clear. He walked straight in front of an MP actually on his feet questioning the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Ian Lloyd (C. Havant), knocked from his stride, struggled on.

To be interrupted by a new kerfuffle. Ted's habitual place was already occupied. Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion), an elderly guru who speaks - or, rather, rumbles - with authority on any international issue you care to name was sitting with the other old lions below the gangway. Ted gave him the sort of "who's been sitting on my bench?" stare that a big bear might give a medium-sized bear. Amery struggled to his feet and sat awkwardly down on the floor. Mr Heath settled back, grim-faced. Anthony Beaumont Dark (C. Selly Oak), who is only pretending to be an old lion, vacated his space on the bench and headed Mr Amery gently into it. Beaumont Dark sat on the floor.

Mr Major entered to a great cheer, and the Gulf dominated the session which followed. PM's questions. It dominated everything except for David Shaw (C. Dover) for whom the subject of the afternoon was the upgrading of the A2 - "to Dover," he explained.

"And all the way to Baghdad," said Tony Banks. In criticism of Mr Shaw it may be said that he misjudged the mood. In his defence, that was the only backbencher to raise a matter over which he has the least influence. For the rest, all

was congratulation. MPs congratulated the allies, troops and each other. William Cash (Stafford) thanked Mr Major for thanking Mrs Thatcher, and called for a victory parade.

Mr Major made a calm and graceful statement. He paid Mrs Thatcher a tribute which was generous without being sycophantic. Praising her early response to the Iraqi threat, he said that "her action has been totally vindicated." At this I saw Mrs Thatcher blink repeatedly, tighten her jaw and cast her eyes down.

Composure returned, she rose to intervene after Mr Kinnoch. To catch Mr Speaker's eye backbenchers normally need to jump up and down; but, no more than leaning a little forward to be noticed, Mrs Thatcher was called. She spoke with a kind of majesty, standing almost to attention, her style a notable contrast to her successor's.

Labour's Patrick Duffy (Athercliffe) congratulated the front bench on their "unwavering" support for the war. This was not strictly true, as there was a little wobble just before war started, but, once it became clear which way the wind was blowing, no weather vane has wavered.

Duffy spoke of the anti-war faction. Looking towards Mr Heath but gesturing towards Mr Benn, he said "we had them here. They were routed." There was a great cheer.

Mr Heath looked distinctly unamused. He bore the expression of a man much misunderstood. He spoke not a word. Above his head one could almost read the "THINKS" bubble...

"I have been vindicated. Sanctions have worked." Back in Old Baghdad & Sidcup, Radio Bexley was still broadcasting defiant victory messages.

MATTHEW PARRIS

US sets out peace terms

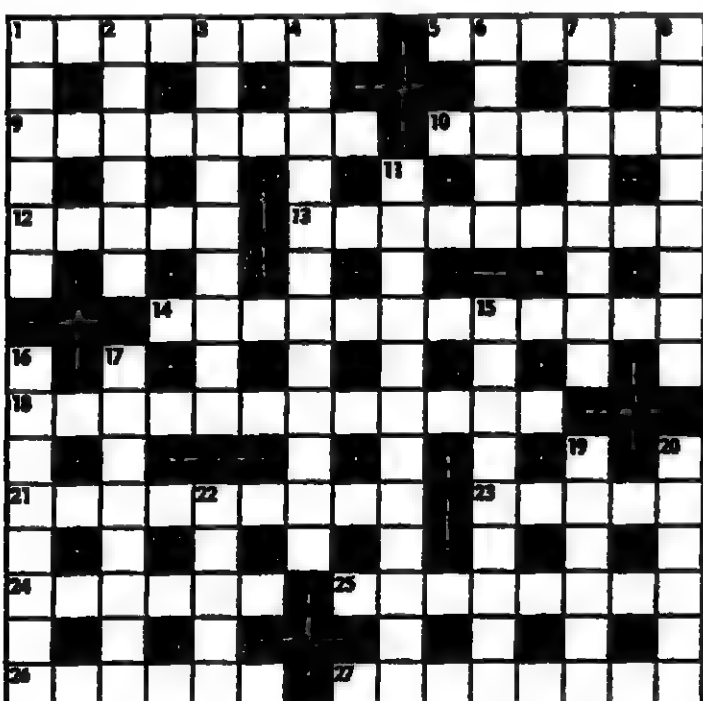
Continued from page 1

destruction and not to acquire such weapons in the future." The prime minister said that the international community would continue to treat Iraq as an international pariah so long as Saddam remained in power. Margaret Thatcher, making her first speech from the back benches, gave a warning that the "victories of peace will take longer than the

battles of war." The search for that peace began in earnest yesterday with the announcement that James Baker, the American Secretary of State, was to visit Kuwait next week as part of a Middle East tour.

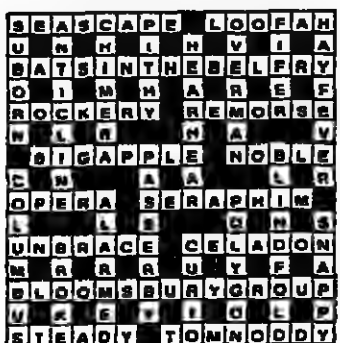
He is also likely to visit Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Turkey to explore ideas for post-war reconstruction of the area.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,542



- ACROSS
- 1 Making silly faces but not extremely easily (8).
 - 5 Energetic person receives pound fine, as a driver of course (6).
 - 9 Repercussions of help in the bank? (8).
 - 10 Go often to Brighton, for example (6).
 - 12 Beginning in Israel, the sacred river keeps East (5).
 - 13 Polish and German states - North European, of course (9).
 - 14 Introduction to a lecture (12).
 - 18 Paid on occasion, as established by custom (4-8).
 - 21 Old crooks ignore contracts (9).
 - 23 Put out some tremendous entertainment (5).
 - 24 A hint about breadmaster's new judgment (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,541



- DOWN
- 1 Marvellous article about one member of Society (6).
 - 2 Many chest in order to get distinction (6).
 - 3 Evangelical in the old city, among vulgar companions (3,6).
 - 4 Lack of enthusiasm for schedule with fifty points (12).
 - 6 Old game, arranged as the last of a series (5).
 - 7 Brilliant regiment, absent from football manoeuvres (8).
 - 8 Unsociable practice arising in the hand (10).
 - 11 Admitting all doubt, it's anyone's guess (4,8).
 - 15 A remedy for many in depression, after the end of prayers (9).
 - 16 How to play troublesome to-cats? (8).
 - 17 "Hell is full of musical ..." (G B Shaw) (8).
 - 19 Face up to girl clanking wooden skittle (6).
 - 20 Foreign currency group invested in plant (6).
 - 22 Affect drastically when at university - on purpose (7-3).

Conclude crossword, page 17

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

WALKER
a. A patch of pugilism
b. An Australian horse
c. A weatherproof coat

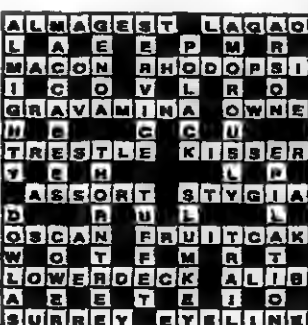
DOWL
a. Down in a feather
b. Low-spirited
c. A carpenter's drill

RAGULY
a. Having stubs
b. An Indian tax collector
c. Coarse patterned muslin

WELLSCHMERZ
a. World-weary sadness
b. Picking in brins
c. Premium leather-wear

Answers on page 22

Solution to the
Eliminator puzzle
No 18,535



Eliminator explained, Page 20

England, Wales and Northern Ireland will, after fog patches and frost, have bright or sunny spells, with scattered showers. Most of Scotland, after fog and frost, will have bright or sunny spells, before widespread showers, perhaps thundery; north-east Scotland will be cloudy with rain or sleet, becoming brighter except over the Shetlands. Outlook: changeable, with showers; tomorrow may be dry for a time.

MONDAY: 1-March; 2-October; 3-4-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-March										Sum	Jan	Max																		
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FRIDAY MARCH 1 1991

Company spending on R&D declines

CORPORATE spending on research and development fell by almost 5 per cent in 1989, the latest year for which figures are available, according to the government's central statistical office (Philip Bassett writes).

Ministers and business leaders will be concerned at the fall, particularly since the latest figures refer to spending before the start of the recession.

The government's figures were published in advance by Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, who said they showed a "deep crisis" in industrial R&D, with cuts in every sector. The figures follow calls last week from leading scientists for a proper government commitment to R&D.

Full details of the 1991 government R&D survey, covering 2,600 establishments, will not be published until the summer, but preliminary results show a decline in overall R&D spending of 4.7 per cent from £5.94 billion to £5.66 billion at constant 1985 prices.

Calculating from the government's figures, Labour said that R&D spending by the manufacturing industry fell by 23.2 million, or 7 per cent, in real terms. In mechanical engineering, Labour said the fall was 40 per cent.

Sedgwick stake

Transamerica Corporation, the American financial services group, has reduced its stake in Sedgwick, the insurance broker, from 39 per cent to 25 per cent. The shares, worth £133 million, were placed with British institutions yesterday by Morgan Stanley and Warburg Securities at 22p each.

Textiles gains

Courtauld Textiles, the clothing, fabrics and spinning group demerged from Courtaulds last year, lifted pretax profits from £39.9 million to £40.3 million in 1990, and is paying a final dividend of 8.3p a share, making 12.3p (11.6p). *Tempos, page 27*

Chairman rails at £1½bn fall in ICI profits

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

ICI has provided for £428 million of extraordinary costs to implement a worldwide restructuring after the a 36 per cent fall in 1990 pre-tax profits to £977 million.

Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of the international chemicals and pharmaceutical group, said that despite difficult trading conditions and the growing impact of recession, the results were "just not good enough". ICI shares, however, gained 31p to 1,027p, mainly in relief that its annual dividend had been maintained at 55p.

The restructuring, which follows a strategic review to plan for lower growth after the recession, will bring substantial job losses, closures, and sales or rationalisation of sales businesses.

Sir Denys said the review had not changed the strategy of focusing on international businesses with higher added value. ICI will, however, concentrate resources even more selectively on growth businesses in which it has a strong global position or can build one. ICI would use other businesses to generate cash or dispose of them.

ICI is to close much of its fertiliser business after the two recommended by the monopolies commission on its sale to Kemira, the state-owned Finnish group. Some closures and more than 600 job losses were planned as part of that deal.

The revised closure plan, to take ICI out of basic com-

pound fertilisers, will cost £20 million, mainly at Billingham in the Northeast, and the closure of manufacturing at Leith in Scotland. This accounts for £128 million of the extraordinary provisions net of tax.

Sir Denys said the ban on the sale, which was made on competition grounds, was not right for ICI or for British agriculture. "Our decision to exit is irrevocable" he added. The remaining half of the fertiliser business, mostly merchanting and ammonium nitrate production, is up for sale but would eventually be closed if no buyers emerged.

The future of the group's British chlorine and PVC businesses will also be threatened unless planned increases of more than 25 per cent in electricity prices are moderated, Sir Denys said.

Restructuring has already been announced for the film, fibres and advanced materials businesses. All of these traded



Sir Denys: 'not good enough'

at a loss in the fourth quarter of last year, when sales fell 7 per cent and ICI made pre-tax profits of only £84 million, compared with £296 million in the last three months of 1989. For 1990 as a whole, worldwide sales fell by 2 per cent to £12.9 billion and trading profit dropped by 30 per cent to £1 billion.

Pharmaceuticals increased trading profits by 23 per cent to £489 million, providing almost half the group's total trading profits. Paint profits rose 8 per cent to £108 million and industrial explosives by 4 per cent to £50 million but all other sectors fell. The group's high added-value effect chemicals were hard hit, profits falling from £69 million to £3 million. Petrochemicals and plastics were down from £417 million to £103 million.

Earnings per share fell 36 per cent to 87.5p. Despite the provisions, ICI had net extraordinary gains of £53 million thanks to the £520 million profit from selling its holding in Enterprise Oil.

Sir Denys, who is to stay as chairman until 1995, said this year was likely to be another difficult one though prospects were extremely cloudy. "The first half will be pretty rough but the second half might be better" he said. The spike in oil prices, which had made things worse in the fourth quarter, would lead to stock losses in the first quarter of 1991. Trading had not so far improved, although it had not become worse.

Comment, page 27

Barclays says £2bn of its loans are in default

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS, Britain's largest bank, was forced to set aside £1.23 billion against bad debts last year as failures of its corporate customers soared.

The bank said that £2 billion of its loans are in default, with an additional £900 million in difficulties.

Despite the provisions, the bank increased pre-tax profits by 10 per cent to £760 million. Last year's profits were depressed by a one-off provision of £983 million against Third World debts. The final dividend rose 5 per cent to 12p, to make an 8 per cent gain for the year to 21.2p.

Sir John Quinlan, the chairman, said: "We had expected

a good bounce back this year, but in relation to other banks the figures are not that bad." The figures included fraud losses of £25 million at Barclaycard, the bank's credit card company, up £15 million from last year.

Andrew Buxton, the managing director, said that illegal use of credit cards was at record levels and Barclays was working with other banks on anti-fraud measures.

Barclays wrote off £807 million against bad debts in Britain, up 332 per cent. This included a £100 million provision on British & Commonwealth, the financial services group that collapsed last year.

Despite that, only three of the bank's provisions were for more than £10 million and most of the bad debts came from small companies.

Sir John confirmed Barclays' plans to cut 5,000 jobs this year from its British workforce of 85,300. He said most of this would go through natural wastage although some voluntary redundancies are likely.

As well as the specific provisions, Barclays set aside an extra £180 million as a reserve against bad debts this year. "We feel there are still unidentified bad debts which will emerge in the first half of this year," Sir John said.

Profits at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the investment banking subsidiary, slumped 91 per cent to £5 million, due to falling world stock markets.

Sir John said he welcomed the fall in interest rates but that the business would not recover until later in the year. ICI Barclays is the first high street bank to cut its mortgage rates, by three quarters of a point for both new and existing borrowers. New borrowers will pay 13.75 per cent from today, while 300,000 existing borrowers will pay 14 per cent from April 1. New and existing borrowers with a typical £40,000 endowment mortgage will have to pay £20 less a month, while an £80,000 mortgage will cost £50.42 a month less.

*Job losses, page 11
Tempos, page 27*

Weather forces Royal into losses of £187m

By MATTHEW BOND

BRITAIN'S increasingly variable weather cost Royal Insurance £285 million last year, forcing the company into pre-tax losses of £187 million (£126 million profit) for the year to end-December.

For domestic property insurers, last year was a disaster. Winter storms followed by a hot summer sent claims rocketing. Weather losses almost trebled to £159 million, while subsidence losses more than doubled to £126 million. Royal reacted by putting domestic property premiums

up 10 per cent. After last year's storms, the cost of catastrophic reinsurance for domestic property had risen five times. In this climate, Royal paid an unchanged final dividend of 14.75p to give a total of 26p (25.5p).

Domestic motor premiums are going up by 9 per cent, while commercial premiums will rise 10-25 per cent. The Royal's 700 branch estate agency chain made an operating loss of £22 million.

Tempos, page 27

Supermarkets cleared of cartel

By ROSS TIEMAN

THE Office of Fair Trading has found "no firm evidence" to back allegations of anti-competitive behaviour by British supermarkets to prevent Aldi, the German cut-price chain, gaining a foothold in the United Kingdom.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, began enquiries after rival supermarkets were said to have threatened to withdraw business from suppliers which dealt with the newcomer.

He said he has no plans for a further, more formal investigation, but he emphasised: "My office continues to examine allegations that some manufacturers have refused to supply Aldi, and because of its low pricing policy, and other difficulties experienced by Aldi, and it will take up any new cases brought to its attention."

Sir Gordon acknowledged that suppliers could have been under pressure from

supermarkets not to provide his office with the confirmation which it sought. He urged any supplier that had experienced undue pressure from retail customers to tell him.

The director general said he was concerned about the concentration of grocery retailing and buying power in Britain. He said he welcomed the arrival of Aldi and others to challenge the supermarkets. He said: "This will give consumers a greater choice of outlets at which to shop. I would not wish to see this competition stifled by practices which are anti-competitive."

The last OFT investigation into food retailing in Britain, which examined discounting by suppliers, gave foodstores a clean bill of health, acknowledging that they passed on most of the benefits to customers.

Tony MacNeary, a retail analyst at County NatWest, the broker, said the

announcement was what the City expected. Had Sir Gordon uncovered wrongdoing by the major supermarket chains their shares would have been savaged.

Aldi has more than 15 stores in Britain, but its expansion has been less rapid than expected. It offers about 600 unbranded lines of basic commodities at bargain prices.

Mr MacNeary said Aldi's trading profit margin of about 2 per cent appeared unfavourable, compared with margins of 6 per cent for major British supermarkets. He said Aldi's return on capital was similar because it could achieve a greater rate of stock turnover on a limited number of lines.

Sir Gordon also welcomed the arrival in Britain of Netto, a Danish store chain that sells a limited range of staple goods at competitive prices. Netto has a handful of stores in and near Yorkshire.



Charting the future: David Soester, Christopher Smith, John McGuire and Stan Briggs discussing Wimpey's plans

Construction firms build for peace

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NOT since the Seventies, when every aircraft back from the Gulf seemed to carry a load of unemployed, has such a buzz swept through the construction industry.

Ten of Britain's leading civil engineering and industrial groups were yesterday compiling final details of their bids to undertake emergency restoration work in Kuwait.

Wimpey, one of the companies shortlisted by the US Army Corps of Engineers to participate, had to set up special telephone lines to deal with hundreds of calls from craftsmen seeking work.

Most will probably be disappointed. Roddy MacIver, managing director of Wimpey's International Division, said Wimpey's proposals to the Corps of Engineers involved 500 workers, but most would be recruited from the countries that have supplanted the wealthier Western states as sources of muscle in the Middle East: the Philippines, Korea, India, Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt. Only engineers and specialist technicians are likely to be sent from Britain.

Planning for peace has been going on at some of Britain's leading construction groups for longer than the war. Wimpey has been preparing for five and a half months.

The Corps of Engineers has been awarded a \$46.3 million contract by the Kuwaitis to supervise a programme of emergency work in Kuwait. The Corps has invited tenders from 36 companies, including ten from Britain. The winners will be known on Monday.

Because of the time con-

straint, contractors will have to make use of plant already in the Gulf to meet the contracts.

The contract to reopen and repair roads and runways is typical of those available. Although worth \$5 million to \$10 million, additional funding of up to \$20 million is expected to be available once the scale of work becomes clear. Work worth up to \$90 million may be available under the emergency programme.

Malcolm Jardine, the chairman of Kier International,

part of the Beazer group, said construction groups believed it was important to participate in rebuilding from the outset if they were to gain a share of the \$50 billion or more of work that will take place in Kuwait in the coming decade. He said: "It would appear to us that the initial contracts are the best ones to have."

GEC Alsthom, the Anglo-French company, was yesterday awarded a £6 million contract to supply four mobile power stations to Kuwait.

Iraqi move boosts shares

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

SHARE prices across Europe rose as dealers celebrated the Iraqi ceasefire, but the gains slackened by the end of the day with London closing 32.9 points up at 2380.9 after registering a 40-point rise in the late morning.

Attempts by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, to play down mounting speculation about a further cut in bank base rates before the Budget cut little ice with jubilant City investors.

Government securities were, however, left nursing

falls of about 1½ at the longer end.

Frankfurt closed 23.43 lower at 1,542.09 and New York fell back from opening gains, registering an 11-point fall by lunchtime.

Oil prices rose on hopes that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries would agree next month to limit output. North Sea Brent crude oil traded 55 cents higher at 18.48 dollars a barrel on London's April futures contract.

The dollar rose moderately

yesterday, as dealers ignored a sharp drop in consumer spending and personal incomes.

The pound was generally sidelined in the foreign exchanges and continued to trade at about DM2.9150 after Wednesday's cut in base rates. The dollar strengthened to DM1.5275 from DM1.5205 on Wednesday after Chicago's Purchasing Management Association reported a jump in its February index of business conditions to 45 per cent from 40.6 per cent in January.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9085 (-0.0065)
German mark 2.9158 (-0.0021)
Exchange index 93.8 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT-30 Share 1810.7 (+32.9)
FT-SE 100 2380.9 (+32.9)
New York Dow Jones 2882.92 (-8.19)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 26409.22 (+314.97)
Closing Prices ... Page 31

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER:
Aven Rubber 281p (+15p)
Refuge 582p (+30p)
Costain 228p (+12p)
Higgs & Hill 382p (+43p)
J Lang 325p (+38p)
J Knight 326p (+11p)
Burnish Control 555p (+11p)
Redland 564p (+13p)
G Wemyss 256p (+10p)
Laporte 556p (+13p)
Guinness 802p (+15p)
Booker 489p (+15p)
Barclays 417p (+17p)
ERF 133p (+15p)
Lex Service 178p (+10p)
Pendragon 103p (+11p)
BTR 59p (+18p)

FALLS:
SA Breweries 720p (-8p)
Rochem 642p (-8p)
General Accident 532p (-12p)
Closing prices

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Rate 10%
3-month interbank 12% (12 1/4%)
3-month eligible bills 12 1/4%
US: Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds 6 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 6 04-6 03%
30-year bonds 8 1/4-8 5/8%

CURRENCIES


London:
£/\$ 1.9085
£/DM 2.9158
£/Sfr 1.3255
£/FF 1.9655
£/Yen 162.50
£/Index 61.5
ECU 10.70380
£/ECU 1.42110
New York:
£/\$ 1.9085
£/DM 2.9158
£/Sfr 1.3255
£/FF 1.9655
£/Yen 162.50
£/Index 61.5
ECU 10.70380
£/ECU 1.42110

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$389.00 pm \$382.70
Close \$384.00-384.50 (190.80-191.30)
New York:
Comex \$385.65-386.15

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$19.30 bbl (\$18.65)
Denotes latest trading price



1990 Group Results

The trading results of the Group for the year 1990, subject to completion of the audit, together with comparative figures for 1989, are as follows:

	1990 £m	1989* £m
Turnover	12,906	13,171
Profit before taxation	977	1,527
Earnings per £1 Ordinary Share	87.9p	135.0p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary Share	55.0p	55.0p

*Abridged results full accounts with an audit report have been lodged with the Registrar of Companies.

Trading results for the first quarter of 1991 will be announced on Thursday 25 April 1991.

IMPERIAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES PLC

Eagle Star slumps to £128m loss after property provisions

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EAGLE Star, the composite insurance subsidiary of BAT Industries, suffered a £128 million pre-tax loss last year after making a £170 million provision against its property loan guarantees.

The loss, which compares with a £308 million pre-tax profit in 1989, was also caused by claims for storm damage, subsidence and commercial property fires. Eagle Star is facing claims from banks and building societies on property financing policies. These protected lenders from loss if a property developer defaulted on its loan and the sale of the property failed to raise enough to repay the debt.

High interest rates and the

collapse in property values have caused the failure of many property developers, and a large rise in potential claims. Eagle Star closed its property finance indemnity business last year when it realised the extent of the fall in the market.

Clive Coates, the finance director, said the £170 million provision covered all the losses that the company thought it would suffer from the policies. Eagle Star has so far paid out £50 million on them.

Mr Coates said the provision had grown since the autumn because the property market had worsened. "We have increased it not because we have found more claims,

but because we are taking a more jaundiced view of property values."

Eagle Star has total provisions of about £300 million against the indemnities. Its total exposure is £350 million against residential developments and £750 million against commercial property.

Mr Coates said the group was looking at ways to re-enter the indemnity market. "We would be reluctant to go back in on the same terms, but there is a business there and we will see if there are any opportunities." He said Eagle was considering more rate increases on household policies to counter the losses. The company increased premiums 10 per cent this year.

He added that premiums should begin to rise throughout the industry after the heavy losses borne by all the main insurers.

Eagle's premium income was also most static at £2.58 billion. Its underwriting loss grew 400 per cent to £475 million, while investment profits fell 18 per cent to £285 million. The group is increasing its dividend to BAT by £10 million to £90 million.

Berisford sale ruled out

By ANGELA MACKAY

JOHN Slater, the chairman of Berisford International, gave shareholders an optimistic prognosis for the remodelled company, which he said should be cash positive by the middle of the year.

Mr Slater said at the group's annual meeting at Stationers Hall, London, yesterday, that the board had ruled out a voluntary liquidation of the company as well as an outright sale of the entire group, opting to trade its way out of its financial mire.

Berisford put most of its assets up for sale last year after losing £200 million on its New York property portfolio. The company had already sold more than 30 businesses, including British Sugar, its main asset, to realise more than £1.2 billion.

Two more disposals were announced yesterday. Conagra, the American food group, bought JF Brann & Sons, Berisford's cashew nut exporter, for £5.8 million, while Deutsche Gelatine-Fabrikation Stoes paid £5.1 million for the company's gelatin products business.

The sale of these businesses subtracted just over £5 million from Berisford's net debt, which Mr Slater said stood at £160 million. Still to come is the final £95 million from Associated British Foods' purchase of British Sugar, along with the sale of British financial services assets and some small food concerns. Just what



Optimistic: John Slater of Berisford sets new course will provide the transformed company's profit stream once the asset sales are completed is yet to be decided.

After the meeting, Mr Slater said the focus of the company would change and that this may involve the purchase of new assets once the company's refinancing is completed by June 30. Under Murray Stuart, its new chief executive, formerly with Metal Box, Berisford plans to

cut its panel of banks from 68 to fewer than 10 before embarking on a new track. Shares in Berisford have risen sharply from an all-time low two months ago of 14p to close yesterday at 25p.

© Natwest Bank would like us to make clear that while it is banker to Berisford International, it has not made provisions against loans to Berisford's American property investment arm.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Receivers appointed at CH Industrials

CH INDUSTRIALS, the holding group that grew through acquisition in the Eighties, has appointed administrative receivers. Its shares were suspended at 25p, compared with a 12-month high of 88p. The group blamed a severe downturn in trading. It has been unable to negotiate increased funding from its main bankers to meet working capital requirements, despite raising £27 million through disposals since July. Gearing was last estimated at more than 100 per cent.

In the six months to end-September, CHI, which is heavily exposed to the automotive industry, suffered a collapse in profits from £7.3 million to £334,000 and reduced the interim dividend from 1.2p a share to 0.3p. Tim Healey, executive chairman, used CHI to draw together companies, mainly privately owned, with interests ranging from sun roofs to carpet fittings.

Payout rises at Macro

MACRO 4, a computer software group, lifted pre-tax profits from £3.28 million to £3.37 million in the six months to end-December on turnover of £8.1 million (£6.95 million). The interim dividend is 3.825p (3.7p) on earnings per share of 9.5p (9.2p). Terry Kelly, the chairman, said that the year's profit growth should be broadly in line with the first half.

Grafton lifts its dividend

GRAFTON Group, the Dublin builders' merchant and DIY company, increased pre-tax profits from Ir£3.81 million (£3.5 million) to Ir£5.18 million in calendar 1990. Turnover grew 25 per cent to Ir£86.3 million. Earnings per share rose from 19.2p to 22.5p. The dividend rises to 6p (5p) for the year. Interest payments were trimmed from Ir£641,000 to Ir£564,000.

Ashley in Dutch sale

LAURA Ashley, the fashion and home furnishings retailer, is selling its Netherlands textile and wall paper printing operation to a consortium led by Gezinus Bonkester, the business's director, for £3.9 million. Shares rose 9p to 74p.

The purchase consideration is made up of £3.3 million in cash and a £0.6 million subordinated loan repayable over three years. Laura Ashley will retain its made to measure facility, which operates from the same site. All the employees of the textile and wallpaper printing operation will be transferred to the consortium. Laura Ashley is committed to purchasing set quantities of fabric over the next three years.

DTI rules on acquisitions

THE trade and industry department has cleared the acquisition in January of some of the battery business of Chloride Group for £43.5 million by Hawker Siddeley, the electrical engineering company. The department has also decided not to refer the agreed £318 million bid for Yale & Valor by Williams Holdings to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Adidas runs into profit

ADIDAS, the German sports goods maker taken over by Bernard Tapie, the French entrepreneur last year, said the group made global net profit of more than DM30 million last year after a 1989 loss of DM130 million. Turnover rose to DM3.4 billion from DM3.2 billion. Turnover including licence sales climbed to DM4.8 billion from DM4.6 billion.

Cluff profit leaps 25%

CLUFF Resources, the Zimbabwean and Ghanaian gold mining group headed by Aigis Cluff, achieved a 25 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.5 million (£2 million) in the year ended December. The dividend is maintained at 1p.

Gold production in Zimbabwe rose 6 per cent, and breaching results at a gold prospect near Bulawayo are "promising". Cluff's diamond interests in Australia might warrant bringing in a financial partner, Mr Cluff said. Cluff floated 15 per cent of its local subsidiary on the Zimbabwe stock exchange last year, and moved from the USM to a full listing on the London stock market. Shares rose 1p to 53p.

COMPANY BRIEFS

CASTLE COMMS. (Int)
Pre-tax: £759,000
EPS: 7.1p (14.7p)
Div: 4p (4p)

Last time's profit was £1.23m. Turnover grew to £18.4m (£14.5m), with 40 per cent overseas. Extraordinary debit of £378,000.

HIGH-POINT (Int)
Pre-tax: £281,000
EPS: 11.19p (10.86p)
Div: 2.55p (2.55p)

Last time's profit was £265,000. Interest payments increased to £1.34m (£882,000). Group turnover increased to £29.4m (£25.2m).

COPSON (F) (Int)
Pre-tax: £242,000
EPS: 2.06p (3.35p)
Div: Nil

Last time's profit was £227,000. Results for the full year will show continuing losses. Turnover fell to £3.16m (£3.78m).

OSBORN ESTATES (Int)
Pre-tax: £4.05m (£3.58m)
EPS: 0.71p (1.15p)
Div: 0.4p (0.4p)

Rental income and management fees rose to £4.24m (£3.48m). The company realised a £4m profit on the sale of investment properties.

SEET (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £837,000
EPS: 16.3p (5.1p)
Div: Nil

Last time's loss was £133,000. Results for the full year will show continuing losses. Turnover fell to £3.16m (£3.78m).

WHINNEY MACKAY (Int)
Pre-tax: £167,000
EPS: 1.3p (1.3p)
Div: 0.75p (1.6p)

Last time's profit was £150,000. Turnover fell to £3.38m (£3.43m). Company expects turnover and profitability to rise in second half.

ENGLISH & O'SEAS PROP.
Pre-tax: Loss £134,000
EPS: 5.51p (EPS: 23.4p)
Div: 0.5p, mkg 2.5p

Final results. Last time's profit was £2.08m and total dividend was 4.5p. Extraordinary loss of £1.1m and extraordinary debit of £27,000.

ISOTRON (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.42m (£1.35m)
EPS: 7.5p (7.1p)
Div: 1.25p (1.05p)

Turnover grew to £3.2m (£2.59m). Company reports that trading conditions in the medical sector have shown some improvement.

REGINA HEALTH (Int)
Pre-tax: £54,000
EPS: 0.08p (EPS: 12.0p)
Div: Nil

Last time's loss was £2.96m. The company said its financial restructuring is now complete. Turnover was £1.62m (£2.98m).

SANDERSON MURRAY
Pre-tax: £836,000
EPS: 34.8p (5.5p)
Div: 10p (5.5p)

Figures are for 18 months, compared with the previous year. Last time's profit was £118,000. Extraordinary debit of £388,000.

GREENWICH COMMS (Fm)
Pre-tax: Loss £143,200
EPS: 2.1p (4.2p)
Div: Nil

Last time's loss was £294,200. Comparative figures have been restated. Group turnover declined to £10,600 (£248,400).

LANCS. & LONDON INV.
Pre-tax: £283,780
EPS: 2.7p (3.0p)
Div: 1.9p, mkg 2.9p

Final results. Last time's pre-tax revenue was £217,168. Net asset value stood at £3.0p (£2.9p). Last time's total dividend was 2.9p.

SHELDON JONES (Int)
Pre-tax: £44,000
EPS: 0.6p (1.8p)
Div: 1.35p (1.35p)

Last time's profit was £147,000. Exceptional debit of £57,000. Turnover increased to £8.57m (£4.75m).

SCOTTISH INV. TRUST
Pre-tax: £3.7m (£4.58m)
NAV: 168.5p (163.5p)

Results are for three months to end-January. Gross investment income increased to £5.72m (£5.5m).

ARCADIAN INT. (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £1.75m
EPS: 46.1p (EPS: 2.7p)
Div: Nil (1p)

Last time's profit was £98,000. Exceptional loss of £1.48m. Turnover increased to £2.27m (£1.48m).

SINCLAIR GOLDSMITH
Pre-tax: Loss £298,000
EPS: 2.02p (EPS: 5.54p)
Div: 1p (1.5p)

Interim results. Last time's profit was £356,000. Extraordinary debit of £241,000. Turnover fell to £1.82m (£2.28m).

DE MORGAN GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss £388,000
EPS: 2.04p (EPS: 2p)
Div: Nil (1.375p)

Last time's profit was £338,000. Turnover fell to £1.7m (£2.85m). Extraordinary debit this year of £48,000.

KENMARE RES. (Int)
Pre-tax: Loss Ir£46,897
EPS: 0.23p (0.32p)
Div: Nil

Last time's loss was Ir£131,853. Company said the probable level of reserves at its Aeneas graphite project is up to 9.8m (1.5m) tonnes.

GOODWIN (Int)
Pre-tax: £230,563
EPS: 2.06p (0.64p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Last time's profit was £70,434. Turnover rose to £7.68m (£3.13m). The company expects a satisfactory full-year result.

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY.

We are pleased to announce record results in this tenth anniversary year of British Aerospace as a public limited company.

- ▲ Pre taxation profits of £376m represent a record.
- ▲ Sales were at the highest ever level of £10.5bn.
- ▲ Order book stands at £11.8bn — another record.
- ▲ Earnings per share in 1990 after exceptional items were 92.7p, an increase of 12 per cent.
- ▲ A final dividend of 16.1p per share is proposed, bringing the total dividend for the year to 25p, an increase of 10 per cent over 1989.
- ▲ British Aerospace secures considerable value from its diversity. This, together with the benefits of heavy investment in recent years, enables your Board to remain confident of the longer term outlook for British Aerospace...

Professor Roland Smith

Extract from the Chairman's Statement

RESULTS FOR 1990

	1990 £m	1989 £m
Turnover	10,540	9,085
Trading profit	585	441
Profit before taxation	376	333
Shareholders' funds	2,534	2,380
Earnings per share —		
Net distribution basis		
— before exceptional items	98.2p	63.4p
— after exceptional items	92.7p	82.8p
Ordinary dividends per share	25.0p	22.7p

The financial information set out above does not constitute the company's statutory accounts for the years ended 31 December, 1990 or 1989 but is derived from those accounts. Statutory accounts for 1989 have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies, whereas those for 1990 will be delivered following the company's Annual General Meeting. The auditors have reported on those accounts; their reports were unqualified and did not contain a statement under section 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

BRITISH AEROSPACE

British Aerospace plc, 11 Strand, London WC2N 5JT

COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT • DEFENCE SYSTEMS • MOTOR VEHICLES • SPACE SYSTEMS • CONSTRUCTION & PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT • ENTERPRISES

Many things have changed at ICI since the notorious dividend cut a decade ago knocked its reputation in the City. In those days, a dramatic indication of the pain the group was suffering from recession, the strength of sterling and high oil prices counted for more in the boardroom than the short term income of shareholders. Now the group is more concerned to show that it is strong and that management is taking effective action to counter economic conditions.

Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, blamed ICI rather than the government for yesterday's poor results and made it clear that, despite City speculation, the dividend had never been in doubt. This is fair enough since the balance sheet has been strengthened, mainly by the well-timed sale of the Enterprise oil stake, and the dividend is still covered 1.6 times.

Next year is a different story, for one thing has not changed in ICI's world of international chemicals. Since 1980, it has cut back on commodity products and built the high value "effect"

products up from 34 per cent to 56 per cent of sales. Over the same period, ICI has become far less dependent on the volatile British economy, with UK sales down from 42 per cent to 22 per cent of the total. Yet the group seems as vulnerable as ever to economic and commodity price cycles.

This is all the more disappointing in that the almost separate pharmaceutical business has been growing strongly through thick and thin. Leaving pharmaceuticals aside, trading profits halved in 1990. They tumbled even further as the recession in Britain and America bit ever harder in the second half of the year and the Gulf war, bringing a spike in oil prices and loss of customer confidence, made things even worse.

There being no easy answer to this, ICI is simply redoubling its efforts to cut costs and focus on global non-commodity businesses. The government is not

Hard cycling for Sir Denys

COMMENT

making life easier. Leaving economic policy aside — and ICI regards currency effects as broadly neutral — the decision to ban ICI's fertiliser sale seemed more ideological than logical and process industries are paying a heavy competitive price for the government's priority of maximising electricity privatisation proceeds.

The City's best guess is that ICI profits will fall further this year. To some extent that will be revised in the light of the restructuring programme, not least because 1991 profits will gain a double benefit from the cost being taken below the line for 1990. Even so, the shares now enjoy a more challenging rating. They yield 7.1 per cent on a reasonably solid dividend, against an industrial average of less than 5 per cent, but sell at

11.7 times 1990 earnings and about seven times top-of-the-cycle earnings adjusted for inflation. If ICI's main objective is "to increase shareholder value by focusing resources", as Sir Denys fashionably puts it, the board might consider floating off an enlarged pharmaceutical division. That would also focus minds even more on the rest of the business.

Top Marks

Reports of institutional unrest over Marks and Spencer's decision to combine the roles of chairman and chief executive have been overdone. Institutions heard last July that Richard Greenbury, chief executive, was to succeed Lord Rayner as chairman in

April and most knew by November of the group's decision to combine the roles. There have been no reports of riots in the Square Mile.

A few institutions are unhappy about the combined role and most adhere to the principal that the chairman's job is separate and different from that of the chief executive. But in business there is no such thing as guaranteed success from a rigid application of any rules. Many companies have successfully combined the roles. Some notable figures in business, such as Sir Owen Green, are dismissive of current conventional wisdom on the boardroom composition and have impeccable records to support their views.

There is no clamour, for example, for a split in the roles of chairman and chief executive at Grand Metropolitan, Fisons or Bass, where Sir Allen Sheppard, John Kerridge and Ian Prosser

respectively preside. Nor should there be.

The other side of the coin is that a board headed by a single chairman and chief executive may have quicker reflexes and waste less time explaining the obvious to a non-executive chairman with patchy knowledge of the business.

But in other cases fears about the combined roles are justified and pressure has been successfully applied to groups such as Burton to split them. That is a proper exercise of investor responsibility.

But the idea that Mr Greenbury may run riot with no one to check him does not say much for either him or the 15-strong board at M&S, which includes five non-executive directors.

If ever a company deserves the benefit of the doubt, it is surely M&S. In almost all of what it does the group is a shining example to the rest of business. It rarely puts a foot wrong and is unlikely to be doing so now.

A penny worth of performance is worth a pound of management theory and every fund manager knows it.

BARCLAYS' figures for 1990 demonstrate the bank's growing dominance of British banking, although, it suffered under a mountain of bad debts last year.

Two years ago, Barclays and National Westminster were neck and neck; now there is a chasm between them. Chairman Sir John Quinton announced £760 million pre-tax profits, 51 per cent higher. Barclays raised its final dividend 5 per cent to 12p, while NatWest's was frozen. Despite the dividend increase, Barclays lifted its retained earnings 76 per cent to £254 million.

The list of contrasts is long. In investment banking, NatWest suffered a £49 million loss, while Barclays de Zoete Wedd still achieved a £5 million profit. In America, Barclays achieved a £20 million profit against NatWest's £167 million loss.

Barclays has also controlled costs. These rose 6 per cent to £3.76 billion, half the increase borne by NatWest.

Even the treatment of bad debt provisions smacks of force majeure. Barclays suffered domestic write-offs of £807 million, up 332 per cent last year. It has demonstrated the solidity of its earnings by adding £180 million to general provisions to cope with this year's bad debts, even though this increased the tax charge to 44 per cent.

Profits will recover with the economy, but it will be slow. They are likely to be flat this year, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 16. The yield, on the full-year dividend of 21.2p, is 6.8 per cent. Not expensive, considering the quality and the undoubted recovery prospects.

Courtaulds Textiles

IT WAS a little cheeky of Martin Taylor, the chief executive, to suggest Courtaulds Textiles is better at managing its stocks than retailers, but it is hard to argue with him. The first results since the

Gap between Barclays and its rivals grows wider



Raised payout: Sir John Quinton of Barclays yesterday

demerger show exemplary financial controls. Analysts were amazed by higher profits in near worldwide recession.

Textile firms still worry more about the dollar than the mark, as their competition is from the Far East. Last year's weakness in the American currency could have been more damaging for the group were its borrowings not heavily dollar-denominated.

But the numbers that really

impress are the £20 million cut in borrowings, slicing gearing from 52 to 30 per cent, and the 15.7 per cent return on capital employed, against 13.5 per cent. Much of it seems to have been achieved by applying the elementary rule that if it doesn't sell, stop making it. Snow, bombs (in London) and the unsettling effect of the Gulf war wrecked February's high street sales, and the outlook for 1991 is hardly inspiring. But the group is

capable of finding more savings, and with the dollar moving in its favour, could make £95.5 million this time. A rising tax charge will restrict eyes to 29p, putting the shares at 302p on a 10.4 multiple, a rating they well merit.

Royal Insurance

ROYAL Insurance shares hit a 1990 low of 337p five months ago, as the stock market anticipated the dreadful losses from last year's winter storms and summer drought.

The full scale of that damage was confirmed yesterday as Royal revealed its weather losses in Britain had almost trebled to £159 million, while subsidence losses more than doubled to £126 million. Royal's pre-tax figure plunged £187 million into the red compared with a profit of £126 million in 1989. Amazingly the final dividend emerged unchanged at 14.75p to make a total of 26p (25.5p).

But what a difference five months makes. Royal's shares celebrated the losses with a 12p rise to 457p. The inevitable question is, has buying for recovery been overdone?

Royal's performance is geared to global stock markets. As they rise, so does Royal's solvency margin, which in turn calms market fears of a rights issue and makes the shares more attractive. This year's market recovery has improved Royal's solvency margin from a rock bottom 32 per cent at the December year-end to 39 per cent now.

But Royal's general insurance business is not in good shape. The strategy decided upon by Ian Rushton, the chief executive, is to chase profits, not market share. It may be beginning to pay off in America, but in Britain premium rises are unlikely to work their way through to profits until next year.

Forecasts for this year are vague, ranging from a £25 million loss to a £50 million profit. Recovery will come, but at 457p, there should be better buying opportunities.

Glaxo faces life after Zantac

GLAXO is a victim of its own success. Zantac, its wonder-drug prescribed for anti-ulcer treatment, and launched in October 1981, long ago gained entry to *The Guinness Book of Records* as the world's largest selling prescription medicine.

But what is now beginning to give the market its own ulcers is that Zantac cannot be expected to run ahead for ever, that there are competitive treatments — notably Losec, from the Swedish drugs group Astra — that are making strong headway, and that Glaxo's seven-member family of new generation drugs, even though each has current sales of \$100 million, have yet to get into full stride.

Results from Glaxo for the half-year to end December, announced by Dr Ernest Mario, the chief executive yesterday, showed the trading profit 1 per cent up at £523 million, pre-tax profits of £617 million against £579 million, and a turnover 3 per cent higher at £1.51 billion compared with £1.46 billion, of which Zantac was responsible for more than half.

The figures were masked by currency movements. At constant exchange rates, Glaxo's

interim turnover was 14 per cent up and trading profit was 10 per cent ahead.

The interim dividend rises from 7p to 8.5p a share, a rate of increase which — coupled with the underlying growth rates — pleased the market and sent the shares 58p higher to 974p.

Zantac's underlying sales growth, at constant exchange rates, was 13 per cent — and above expectations — while the drug maintained its world market share at 41 per cent.

One box of 60 tablets of 150 mg sells to the British wholesale market for £26.04 — equivalent to 43p a tablet.

To date, Glaxo has bathed in the financial success of Zantac — but the drug's profits plateau is not far off, and a financial tightrope looms as Glaxo tries to balance the increased costs of holding Zantac's market share while funding launch costs of new products.

The group's financial strength with net liquid funds of £1.025 billion, though down from £1.16 billion at June 30, remains a strong defensive quality.

The research and development spend was £210



Mario: still ahead

million in the half year, and is still headed for £480 million for the year as a whole. The projected research and development spend next year is between £560 million and £600 million.

Yesterday there was another £1 million donation from the group — this time to help establish a support centre in Liverpool for people suffering from neurological disorders.

Glaxo, meanwhile, continues to make headway with new compounds — notably

Zofran, to prevent nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy and radiotherapy for cancer, and Serenex, for use in the anti-anxiety field.

Glaxo research scientists are currently in the pilot stage for drugs associated with fighting cocaine (but not heroin), ageing and associated problems, anxiety and schizophrenia.

The group is also playing its part in the race to conquer Aids. Herein lie the hopes of a replacement for Zantac that will capture the investment imagination.

Year end pre-tax profits estimates range between £1.17 billion and £1.23 billion (compared with last year's £1.16 billion outcome) to put the shares, on the higher forecast, on a prospective rating of 16.7.

Glaxo remains loved by investors in the United States, whose holdings have increased from 14.23 per cent to 16 per cent.

But London analysts, concerned about the levelling out of Zantac, remain in two minds.

COLIN CAMPBELL

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Thin green line of law

CITY whiz-kids who deal across the Atlantic could be hauled before regulators on Wall Street if they break the rules. Such, at any rate, is the view of a top American legal delegation, which has given warning that London and New York are co-operating even more closely on regulatory matters. The team, from Roseman & Colin, a Wall Street law firm — and sister company to Lawrence Graham, the London solicitor — held a seminar for 150 stockbrokers and corporate financiers in the City this week. The speakers included Saul Cohen, a graduate of Yale and Columbia, who arrived wearing a snazzy pair of Drexel Burnham Lambert braces. Cohen was appointed general counsel to the junk bond firm by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and spent a year with the group, during which he decided to enlarge his wardrobe. "They were the one valuable thing to come out of there," he says, adding that their colour — maroon blue with a DBL logo and a thin dollar-bill green line running down the middle — was in keeping with the company's profile. "The blue signifies respect for the law," he explains. "And the thin green line hints at what you can make if you ignore it."

matic cash machines, we no longer have to tell our children that money doesn't grow on trees. They now think it comes out of a wall."

Less of Moore

IAN Moore, pharmaceuticals analyst at UBS Phillips & Drew, has left the firm after a disagreement. Moore left on Wednesday after two years with the firm and is now on the scout for new opportunities. His departure marks the end of a four-year partnership with Martin Hall, fellow pharmaceuticals analyst, who was recruited by Moore to join the team at Warner Lambert in 1987. They went on to join Morgan Grenfell, leaving with Robert Fleming for two months after Morgan's demise in late 1988, before finally taking up residence at UBS. Bill Seward, head of equity

research at the firm, says he is now looking for a replacement, but would not be drawn on the reasons for Moore's departure. Sources close to the firm blame "a difference in working style", adding that the turn of events is not entirely unexpected. Hall has now taken charge of the whole UK side of the sector — the second largest after oils — together with Peter Smith, who follows Europeans.

FROM the Southeastern Oil Review published in America: "Cocktail party: A gathering where people drink martinis, spear olives, stab friends and spill the beans."

The Magic Mile

SIR Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, may have found a secret solution to the troubles of the banking market. He was spotted deep in conversation at the Mansion House on Wednesday night, not, for once, with his advisers, but with a team of magicians. He was among 250 guests from the Square Mile — Edmund Vestey and Sir Patrick Sheehy among them — who attended a £75-a-head black-tie dinner held by the Magic Circle, the society for professional and amateur magicians. The star performer of the evening was Rupert Connell, a partner of Hobson Audley, the City law firm. Connell, who helped infuse the dinner, was performing a trick for his table when he was hailed by Oliver Dawson,

chairman of Foreign and Colonial Management. "Next thing, I was performing a card trick for the lord mayor," says Connell, who insists they both enjoyed the experience.

Spot on, Partridge

ONE of the few people in the City not winning their hands in despair over Royal Insurance's £187 million loss was Vernon Partridge, former head of research at Laing & Crickbank. Partridge, aged 49, who left Laing in October 1989 to work on a new venture and is now head of research at Girocentrale Gilbert Elliot, the broker, estimated exactly what the figure would be. "There was an enormous amount of luck involved," says Partridge, who ranked top of the insurance sector throughout the Eighties and was presented with a bottle of Laurent & Perrier champagne — Krug would have been too expensive in the circumstances — as a reward for his efforts. Peter Jones, a former Laing colleague, is also back in the Square Mile, working for Olliff & Partners, a small broker. In 1989, both men left Laing to set up Podium Investment Management with John Howard, a New Yorker who built up and ran Bankers Trust's leveraged buyout division in London, and has since returned to America. Partridge is now looking for "energetic and intelligent" analysts to help him in his new role.

JON ASHWORTH



"Down by one third I believe"

FROM a women's magazine in Australia: "Thanks to auto-

British Gas announces revised prices under the Long Term Interruptible Schedule.

With effect from 2nd March 1991 British Gas will apply the following revised Basic Scheduled Reference Prices to Table 1 incorporated within Schedule LT12.

TABLE 1 LONG TERM INTERRUPTIBLE GAS			
ESCALATION TYPE	A	B	C
INDEXATION %	15 Gas Oil 15 Heavy Fuel Oil 35 PPI 35 Electricity or Coal	20 Gas Oil 20 Heavy Fuel Oil 30 PPI 30 Electricity or Coal	25 Gas Oil 25 Heavy Fuel Oil 25 PPI 25 Electricity or Coal
BASIC SCHEDULED REFERENCE PRICE (pence per therm)			
NO. OF PREMISES			
1	23.00	22.50	22.10
2	23.10	22.60	22.20
3-10	23.20	22.70	22.30

The price phasing option available under Schedule LT12 at para.(iii)(b) has also been amended in that it is only available provided the resulting price does not fall below 22p/therm.

These revisions apply only to Long Term Interruptible Gas contracts entered into from 2nd March 1991. All other conditions within the Schedule remain the same.

British Gas

British Gas. Registered Office: Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL. Registered in England No. 2006000

Foreign and Colonial NAV falls

By OUR CITY STAFF

FOREIGN and Colonial Investment Trust, Britain's largest investment trust, suffered a fall in net asset value from 199.4p a share to 151.7p in 1990.

The 23.9 per cent decline compares with a 14 per cent fall in the FT-Actuaries All Share index and reflects the relatively high overseas content of F&C's investment portfolio. Indices in the United States, Japan and Germany fell by 22 per cent, 47 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively.

Net revenue rose from £21.2 million to £23.1 million, helped by large dividend increases in Britain. Earnings rose from 2.87p a share to 3.29p. A final dividend of 1.9p a share makes a total of 2.9p, up from 2.6p, and ahead of the investment trust's own forecast of 2.86p.

Philips counts cost of reshaping with fall to £1.3bn loss

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU in Eindhoven

PHILIPS, the troubled Dutch consumer electronics company, plunged into a net loss last year of 4.2 billion guilders (£1.3 billion).

The loss, which was broadly in line with expectations, results from a provision for a restructuring programme costing the company £14.6 billion, mainly in redundancy payments to between 45,000 and 55,000 employees, who will go this year.

The staff cuts will affect every sixth employee worldwide, and it is believed that more than 3,000 jobs are at stake in Britain. The

restructuring is the most drastic rescue in the company's 99 years.

Jan Timmer, Philips's president, appeared to rule out the divestment of a whole division, such as the troubled electronic components and computer divisions, as some analysts had hoped for. Philips's priority is to return the divisions to profitability.

Mr Timmer told a press conference yesterday that the recovery would start in the second half of this year, and he predicted a profit for the whole year. Sales last year were £155.76 billion, a fall of 3

per cent, but on a comparable basis, including disposals, a real increase of 5 per cent.

The fall continued into the first two months of this year, and sales are 5 per cent below plan. Mr Timmer blamed this on the world-wide economic slowdown.

As expected, there is no dividend for 1990. Mr Timmer pointed out that the ratio of liabilities to capital employed has risen from 65.2 per cent to 74.4 per cent during the period. He said he was not prepared, as some Philips managers had hoped, to divulge company strategy for the Nineties.

Mr Timmer said: "What kind of company would we like to be in the Nineties? We will certainly not waste time, nor will we waste time on that subject. We have to keep our eyes on the ball, and the rest will follow automatically."

However, he emphasised: "This organisation is on the road to recovery."

Mr Timmer said there will be no more provisions this year and the company will return to a bottom-line profit for 1991.

This might, however, include some asset disposals, such as the expected sale of the remainder of Philips's white goods interests to Whirlpool, its American partner.

On the Amsterdam stock exchange, Philips shares rose £10.60 to £126.90.

There are only ten voting shares in the company, majority-owned by the Philips family.



Points for profits: Tom Cowie sees his interest burden lessen with every base rate cut

T Cowie drops to £11.3m

By MARTIN BARROW

T COWIE, the motor dealer and finance group, suffered a £4.8 million drop last year in pre-tax profits to £11.3 million.

Trading profits rose from £54 million to almost £56 million, but interest charges rose an additional £6.7 million to £44.7 million. The company, which derives 75 per cent of profits from finance-related business, has borrowings of £328.71 million, or 380 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Earnings were down from 10.87p a share to 7.22p. After maintaining the interim dividend at 1.2p a share, the company is reducing the final dividend from 3p to 2.5p, making 3.7p for the year, down from 4.2p.

The results were better than

some City expectations, despite the sharp fall in profits, and Cowie shares rose 7p to 70p. The company is seen as a major beneficiary of lower interest rates, with each percentage point cut in base rates estimated to add about £2.4 million to taxable profits through reduced interest charges.

Tom Cowie, the chairman, said: "The October cut in interest rates came too late to make much impact. Added to the latest reduction interest rates have already fallen by 2 per cent and we would expect further cuts later this year, possibly to coincide with the Budget."

Lower interest rates would also have a beneficial impact on consumer confidence and demand, he added.

The finance division, which includes contract and fleet

management, saw profits fall from £8.97 million to £7.5 million through higher borrowing costs. Cowie Interleasing's southern administrative operations were transferred from Sevenoaks, Kent, to Birmingham. This will save almost £1.3 million a year in costs.

Disposal of the loss-making short-term rental division, incurring an extraordinary charge of £2.3 million, eliminated annual losses of between £2 million and £3 million.

The motor division contributed profits of £4.82 million, against £5.15 million, increasing new car sales by 1,000 to 25,000 against the industry trend.

Retail demand was weak, but fleet sales remained strong, underpinning margins.

London Forfeiting jumps £9m into black

By PHILIP PANGLOSS

LONDON Forfeiting, the trade finance group, has unveiled pre-tax profits of £9.05 million for the year to end-December, against a loss of £8.81 million last time.

The full year figures were ahead of market expectations and follow an improved performance in the second half in line with a general improvement in trading conditions. The shares responded with an 11p rise to 116p.

In the previous year the results were hit hard by a strong mark and rising interest rates. Since then, the company has reduced its forfeiting portfolio - from £166 million at end-June to £120 million at end-December - and has maintained a substantially hedged position. The company said the smaller size of the portfolio reduces its risk profile.

Stathis Papoutas, managing director, said: "We are trading more actively." He said the company was also putting a greater emphasis on Far Eastern economies.

Trading income slipped from £13.8 million to £11.8 million. Interest receivable and income from certificates of deposit climbed from £15.9 million to £16.2 million, while interest payable was slashed from £32.4 million to £12.5 million. Earnings per share are 5.71p, against a loss of 8.49p last time. The board is paying a final dividend of 4.62p, making an unchanged total of 7.25p for the year.

Last July, the 40 per cent stake in the firm held by British & Commonwealth was placed with a number of institutions. Analysts expect current full year pre-tax profits to top £14 million.

NatWest Business Accounts INTEREST RATES

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 28th February 1991:

Solicitors Reserve Account

Customers not affected by CRT		Customers affected by CRT	
Gross interest per annum	Balance	Net interest per annum	Gross equivalent per annum to a basic rate taxpayer
	Instant Access - No minimum deposit/withdrawal		
11.625%	£250,000 and above	8.625%	11.50%
11.625%	£100,000 - £249,999	8.625%	11.50%
11.25%	£25,000 - £99,999	8.375%	11.17%
10.875%	£2,000 - £24,999	8.125%	10.83%
8.00%	£500 - £1,999	6.00%	8.00%

National Westminster Bank PLC
41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

NatWest Business Accounts INTEREST RATES

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 28th February 1991:

Business Reserve Account

Customers not affected by CRT		Customers affected by CRT	
Gross interest per annum	Balance	Net interest per annum	Gross equivalent per annum to a basic rate taxpayer
	Instant Access - Minimum deposit/withdrawal £100		
11.625%	£250,000 - £1,000,000	8.625%	11.50%
11.50%	£100,000 - £249,999	8.50%	11.33%
11.25%	£25,000 - £99,999	8.375%	11.17%
10.625%	£2,000 - £24,999	7.875%	10.50%
8.00%	£500 - £1,999	6.00%	8.00%

Capital Reserve Account

Customers not affected by CRT		Customers affected by CRT	
Gross interest per annum	Balance	Net interest per annum	Gross equivalent per annum to a basic rate taxpayer
	14 days notice of withdrawal required - No minimum deposit/withdrawal		
12.375%	£250,000 and above	9.25%	12.33%
12.25%	£100,000 - £249,999	9.125%	12.17%
12.125%	£25,000 - £99,999	9.00%	12.00%
11.50%	£2,000 - £24,999	8.50%	11.33%

National Westminster Bank PLC
41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

Rutland business sold to Inchcape

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

RUTLAND Trust, the financial and professional services group, is selling its insurance broking operations in a deal costing £9.65 million.

The buyer is Inchcape, whose Bain Clarkson subsidiary is the fourth largest retail insurance broker in Britain and the twelfth largest broker worldwide. The purchase price is £8.5 million, but Inchcape will also repay an outstanding £1.15 million loan to Rutland.

News of the deal accompanied results from Rutland showing a drop in pretax profits from £15.4 million to £10.4 million last year. Michael Langdon, the chief executive, says the businesses being sold contributed £899,000 on a turnover of £6.87 million.

Mr Langdon says softening insurance rates and the adverse economic climate scuppered Rutland's plan to expand the regional broking network it had built over the past four years. The sale has produced an extraordinary gain for Rutland of £4.9 million after other closure costs.

Mr Langdon says Rutland will concentrate on its corporate and property finance, asset finance and professional services operations. The shortfall in profits is blamed on the impact of the recession on the group's equipment leasing and architecture and building surveying businesses.

Earnings per share tumbled from 3.59p to 2.32p, but Mr Langdon says that in view of the strengthened position of the group and its prospects for this year, the final dividend is being held at 0.53p a share, to make 0.8p for the year.

**first direct
base rate**

with effect from 27 february 1991 first direct base rate is decreased by 0.5% p.a. from 13.5% p.a. to 13.0% p.a.

all facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to first direct base rate are varied accordingly.

first direct
0345 100 100

first direct is a division of midland bank plc.
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NatWest INTEREST RATES

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 28th February 1991:

Savings

Customers not affected by CRT		Customers affected by CRT	
Gross interest per annum	Balance	Net interest per annum	Gross equivalent per annum to a basic rate taxpayer
	Crown Reserve 3 Months' notice Minimum Investment £2,000		
12.75%	£25,000 and above	10.00%	13.33%
12.50%	£10,000 - £24,999	9.75%	13.00%
12.125%	£2,000 - £9,999	9.375%	12.50%
	Special Reserve Instant Access Savings Minimum Balance £500		
10.75%	£25,000 and above	8.25%	11.00%
10.25%	£10,000-£24,999	8.00%	10.67%
10.00%	£2,000-£9,999	7.75%	10.33%
9.50%	£500-£1,999	7.375%	9.83%
	First Reserve Instant Access No Minimum Balance		
10.00%	£1,000 and above	7.75%	10.33%
9.50%	£500-£999	7.375%	9.83%
9.00%	£250-£499	7.00%	9.33%
8.50%	£100-£249	6.50%	8.67%
8.00%	£50-£99	6.375%	8.50%
8.75%	Monthly Income Account*	6.875%	9.17%

*Monthly Income Account effective from 1st March 1991.

*Existing Account Holders only.

Current Accounts

Customers not affected by CRT		Customers affected by CRT	
Gross interest per annum	Balance	Net interest per annum	Gross equivalent per annum to a basic rate taxpayer
4.625%	Card Plus	3.50%	4.67%
4.00%	Current Plus	3.00%	4.00%
4.625%	Student Plus	3.50%	4.67%

National Westminster Bank PLC
41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

STOCK MARKET

Investors celebrate end of the war

HIGGS AND HILLS
on short list for rebuilding Kuwait

FTA All-share index (shaded area)

Share price

Source: Dataquest

Month	Share price	FTA All-share index
Feb	300	300
Mar	320	320
Apr	340	340
May	440	420
Jun	400	380
Jul	380	360
Aug	360	340
Sep	340	320
Oct	320	300
Nov	300	280
Dec	280	260
Jan	300	340
Feb	320	360

Midland Bank, reporting next week, firmed 1p to 182p. There are fears that the dividend may have to be cut. **Lloyds Bank** rose 1p to 339p and **National Westminster Bank** rose 4p to 312p.

Glaxo benefited from an improved set of interim figures with a jump of 58p to 974p. Pre-tax profits were up from £579 million to £617 million. Profits were boosted by the introduction of two new products, Zafiran and Severt. Sales of Zantac, its best-selling, anti-ulcer drug, were up 13 per cent.

of the group's decision to appoint a receiver.

Rockware, the glass manufacturer, fell 7p to 52p after announcing that 1990's pre-tax profits would fall short of last year's £10.9 million because of a drop in demand. The group is forecasting profits of about £9 million.

Frederick Cooper jumped 8p to 63p on speculative buying. But the company said it knew of no reason for the rise. **Newman Tonks** holds 5

Whispers in the market claim that AEG

Whispers in the market claim that AEG Westinghouse of Germany is ready to offer up to 150p a share for Telfos, up 2p to 94p. Meanwhile, Jenbacher of Austria has already said it is prepared to buy 30 per cent of the shares and would consider making a full bid if someone else threatened.

per cent of the shares. The strength of the share price in Fired Earth, up 16p at 95p, continues to puzzle the board.

Sedgwick, the insurance broker, fell 3p to 234p after Transamerica Corporation disposed of a 14 per cent stake, reducing its holding to 25 per cent. The shares were placed with various institutions at 222p each by Warburg Securities.

MICHAEL CLARK

Abbey National, reporting today, fell 4p to 257p. Credit Lyonnais Laing has cut its pre-tax forecast to £565 million (£551 million). It says the quality of mortgage advances, income and profits should be materially downgraded. It has cut its forecast for the current year to £626 million.

longer end as Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, tried to dampen speculation about another cut in rates before the Budget. But dealers and fund managers alike say that pressure for further cuts is mounting.

Market-makers reported heavy demand for leading shares and many of them, short of stock, are starting to feel the squeeze. A healthy 841 million shares changed hands

There was support for the construction and engineering contractors that are hoping to benefit from the rebuilding of Kuwait.

A list of ten British companies has been drawn up to tender for emergency repair work. They include George Wimpey, 10p up at 207p, GEC, 2p firmer at 203p, Higgs and Hill, 43p better at 363p, John Laing, 28p dearer at 336p, Lilley, 74p higher at 534p, Costain, 12p better at 228p, Beazer, 10p stronger at 147p and Weir Group, 15p up at 310p. But some analysts claim that the "Gulf factor" has been overdone and that a number of these companies

The trend towards cheaper money also boosted other building and construction companies. There were rises for Amec, 4p to 253p,

Ashtead, 9p to 129p, Ben Bailey, 6p to 49p, Barratt Developments, 3p to 87p, Bellwinch 4p to 18p Berkeley

Group, 5p to 504p, Henry Boot, 5p to 308p, Countrywide Properties, 4p to 127p, YJ Levell, 4p to 166p, Alfred McAlpine, 21p to 282p, John Mowlem, 11p to 327p, Raine Industries, 10p to 127p, Tay Homes, 7p to 136p, Taylor Woodrow, 8p to 290p, Vibroplant, 10p to 102p, and Wiggins Group, 7p to 37p.

ICI's full-year figures reflected the severity of the economic downturn with pre-tax profits 37 per cent lower at £977 million. The final quarter was particularly badly hit with profits down from £296 million to £84 million. Sir

Key: Insurance continued the composite insurers' dividend season with a set of figures every bit as gloomy as expected. Royal plunged into the red with a pre-tax loss of £187 million compared with a profit of £126 million last time. But the increase in the dividend enabled the shares to finish 13p higher at 458p.

BAT Industries also rose 12p to 675p despite the news of losses totalling £127.9 million at its Eagle Star insurance subsidiary. Elsewhere in the sector, **Commercial Union** rose 2p to 529p, **Guardian Royal Exchange** 2p to 215p and **Sum Alliance** 5p to 367p. **General Accident** fell 15p to 530p.

Shares in CFI Industries were suspended at 25n ahead

per cent of the shares. The strength of the share price in Fired Earth, up 16p at 95p, continues to puzzle the board.

Sedgwick, the insurance broker, fell 3p to 234p after Transamerica Corporation disposed of a 14 per cent stake, reducing its holding to 25 per cent. The shares were placed with various institutions at 222p each by Warburg Securities.

MICHAEL CLARK

**“Resolute action is being
taken to strengthen our
general insurance business.
Excellent growth in
our life business.”**

Commenting on the results Michael Butt, Chairman and Chief Executive, said, "The levels of general business losses being declared for 1990 by us - and the industry as a whole - are unacceptable. Resolute action must be taken to achieve realistic levels of premium. In Eagle Star determined action has been taken to strengthen our general insurance business and restore profitability."

- ★ Pre-tax loss of £128m
- ★ Life new annual premiums up 33% to £135m
- ★ Total investment return of £285m
- ★ Solvency margin remains strong at 58%
- ★ Funds under management at £10.3bn

EAGLE STAR

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[illegible]


MAJOR INDICES		RECENT ISSUES	
New York		EXCHANGES	
Dow Jones	2882.92 (-6.19%)	Asiatic Resources	57
S&P Composite	386.99 (-0.75%)	Aberforth Smr (150p)	106 +4
Tel Aviv		Asbest Res (150p)	134
Tel Aviv 100	2540.22 (+314.87)	Asst Group	36
Hong Kong		Castle Can (50p)	28
Hong Kong	3592.14 (+39.35)	EPW Jax Tst (50p)	36 +1
TSE Euro 100	1058.74 (+2.03)	East German Inv	105
Intermarket		East German Inv	59
S&P Tendency	82.2 (+0.7)	Europe Energy	15
London: AO	1405.5 (+15.43)	Faber Paper (715p)	180
Frankfurt: DAX	1542.00 (-23.2)	High Growth Inv	47 +1
Brussels		High Growth Inv	195
Brussels	5613.78 (+77.59)	Leverinvest (20p)	59
General	465.56 (+49.91)	MIMED	52
Paris: CAC	539.5 (-1.51)	MIM (100p)	21
London: S&A Gen	539.5 (-1.51)	Midland Radio	95
London		Pelican Gap (50p)	21 +2
Tel - A Aik Share	1150.01 (+11.31)	Perpetual (84p)	21
Tel - 300"	1265.57 (+17.44)	St James Place (130p)	70 +1
Tel - Gold Mines	93.47 (-0.48)	Smaller Trf	73 +5
Tel - Forest Int'l	85.37 (-0.47)	Sundt Production (225p)	80 +1
Tel - Govt Secs	85.09 (-0.30)	Sun Switch (100p)	188
Tel - Imports	423.99	Tel Triv Int'l	207
Tel - Volume	861.58	Use Uniform	140 +1
S&P (Distelnet)	121.44 (+0.67)	Unichem (100p)	28
Domestic Inter trading prices		Wig Tpe App	207

TRADITIONAL OPIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
February 10	March 1	May 30	June 10

All options were taken out on 28/2/91. Gerrard Drive, Beckersham Group, Bedfordshire
 Olafas Leisure, Colford Sea, Leicestershire Group, Deres Estates, Dorsetshire Unit
 (Corporate) Founder Wis, Farnham, Muffins & Cookies, ML Higgs, Nield, Perrins Foods,
 Purple Gardens, Traftal House, Tusker Race
 (see West)

1991 & 1992: Colfax Bio-Isolates, Bridgend, Marley, Monument Oil & Gas, Mountleigh,
 Traftal House.



NatWest

INTEREST RATES

NatWest announces the following interest rates, effective from 28 February 1991:

Savings

<p>1 Year 12 months @ 9.00% p.a.</p>	<p>7 Day Notice Deposit Account</p>
<p>3.625%</p>	<p>5.50% Bonus Saver Account†</p>
<p>9.00% 9.125%</p>	<p>Investment Account† 3 Months' Notice 6 Months' Notice</p>

* Interest a fixed price to 31 April 1991 is subject to ECU regulations.
 † Interest is paid where appropriate. Rate Base Tax will be deducted from interest payments. Funds within this may be reclaimed by residents in the taxpayer's country. Subject to other provisions of general law, interest will be paid gross.
 ‡ Floating rate account is 6.50% to 8.75%

National Westminster Bank PLC

41 Louthbury London EC2P 2BP

هكذا من الكحل

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you the overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	GKN	Industrial S-K	
2	Unilever	Industrial S-Z	
3	Taylor Woodrow	Building/Roads	
4	Kwik Save	Food	
5	Dunelm	Food	
6	Wentell	Industrial S-Z	
7	Read Ltd	Newspaper/Pub	
8	Beggs & Sons	Building/Roads	
9	Kingfisher	Drapery/Stores	
10	BPE Ltd	Building/Roads	
11	Brecon PLC	Building/Roads	
12	Unilever	Industrial S-Z	
13	Crystall	Property	
14	Wentell	Industrial S-Z	
15	T & N	Industrial A-D	
16	Kwik Save	Food	
17	Nile Foods	Food	
18	Unilever	Newspaper/Pub	
19	Low (Wm)	Food	
20	Evans Of Leeds	Property	
21	Castle Comm	Leisure	
22	Clifford Foods 'A'	Food	
23	Wellcome	Industrial S-Z	
24	Alcatel	Building/Roads	
25	Arrows	Building/Roads	
26	Hall Eng	Industrial S-K	
27	Body Shop	Drapery/Stores	
28	Telecom	Electricals	
29	Meggin	Industrial S-Z	
30	APV	Industrial A-D	
31	Budymore	Industrial A-D	
32	Yak & Valer	Industrial S-Z	
33	Allied Irish	Bank/Finance	
34	News Int'l	Newspaper/Pub	
35	Sleemight	Industrial S-Z	
36	BBK	Industrial A-D	
37	TI	Industrial S-Z	
38	Alcon	Drapery/Stores	
39	Securitor	Industrial S-Z	
40	P & P	Electricals	
41	Towers	Food	
42	Christie Int	Industrial A-D	
43	Peaterson	Motor/Aircraft	
44	Widnes (Cannib)	Building/Roads	
45	Widnes (Cannib)	Building/Roads	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £2,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to today's competition.

BRITISH FUNDS

10000 High Low Bid Offer

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

UNDATED

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDEX LINKED

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares jump

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 25. Dealings end March 8. Contango day March 11. Settlement day March 18.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

BREWERIES

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

ELECTRICITY

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

FINANCE, LAND

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

FOODS

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

HOTELS, CATERERS

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS S-Z

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS T-V

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS W-X

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS Y-Z

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AA-AD

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AE-AH

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AI-AL

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AM-AN

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AO-AR

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AS-AT

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AU-AV

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AW-AX

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS AY-AZ

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BA-BD

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BE-BF

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BG-BH

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BI-BL

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BM-BN

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BO-BP

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BQ-BR

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BS-BT

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BU-BV

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BW-BX

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS BY-BZ

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CA-CC

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CE-CF

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CG-CH

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CI-CJ

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CK-CL

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CM-CN

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CO-CP

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CQ-CR

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CS-CT

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CU-CV

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

INDUSTRIALS CW-CX

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

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Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

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Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

LEISURE

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

MINING

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

SHOES, LEATHER

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

TEXTILES

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

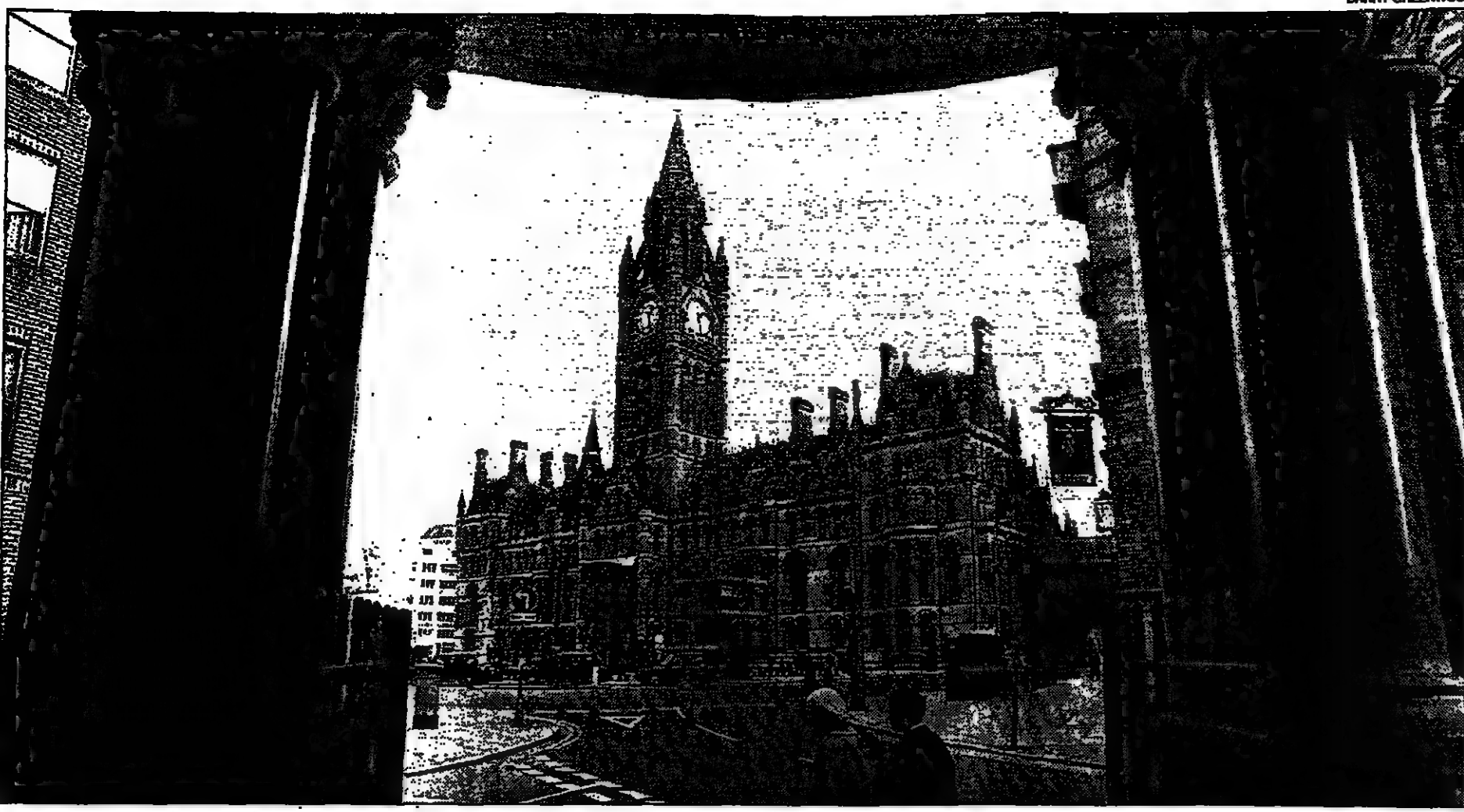
TOBACCO

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

TRANSPORT

Company	High	Low	Bid	Offer
...

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Past and future: Manchester's Gothic-style town hall is a symbol of the success of an old industrial empire. Now it is surrounded by development aimed at rejuvenating business life.

Manchester united for city goal

A new city centre has begun to emerge in Manchester. The jib cranes, bulldozers and teams of workers that have become a familiar feature are doing more than filling derelict sites, smartening up old buildings and bringing a sparkle to stagnant canals. The renewal is designed to restore Manchester's civic pride and importance.

A lift in Mancunian spirits is already tangible in spite of the recession. Although the ten chambers of commerce in the northwest forecast a fall in profits, investment and employment, the belief persists in Manchester that, for once, it is the over-heated southeast which is feeling the worst chill.

Graham Stringer, the leader of the Labour-controlled Manchester city council, sees a great significance in what is happening around the town hall, a grand building that recalls Manchester's days as the capital of an old industrial empire. The recession of the Seventies hit northern cities severely, but Manchester man-

Rebirth of the business centre is restoring the role of the commercial capital of the North. Ronald Faux, Northern Correspondent, reports

aged to retain its importance as a centre for the television industry, finance and professional services.

When the turnaround came, the city was well placed to take advantage, helped by central government initiatives and the Central Manchester Development Corporation. Strong demand for office space continues, and millions of pounds are being invested in infrastructure, including the Metrolink tram system.

Manchester's airport is developing into a major international hub and the city claims to be the dominant financial centre outside London, with more than 60 national and international banks and the largest regional stock exchange.

Manchester has ceased to be a city that dies at night. The spread of Chinatown through the city centre, alongside the financial quarter, has

brought the bright lights late at night and a sense of vitality. A demand for clubs, pubs and all kinds of entertainment is created by a huge student population within the city and by the development of Manchester as an important exhibition centre.

Live theatre thrives here when in other northern cities it faces extinction. The Royal Exchange theatre, for example, attracts average audiences of more than 80 per cent of capacity. An international concert hall is to be built costing £30 million, which will be a home for the city's own Hallé Orchestra and a focal point for a host of cultural activities.

The signs abound that Manchester thrives against the recession. Mr Stringer says: "Everything is still very positive in terms of tourism in the museums

and the attractions of the Castlefields area, restaurant developments and the plans for extra hotels. It is more bullish than the overall economy would suggest."

The council has a reputation for being left wing, but has never suffered bruising confrontations with the government. "I think that in principle it is better that resources should be controlled by people who are accountable to the local community," Mr Stringer says. "I think people who take these important decisions should be elected."

The local politicians say they have noticed an improvement since the Thatcher era and a "cold peace" has ruled relations with central government.

Agreeing to joint venture schemes to provide better public transport and other improvements to the city has brought in resources, and

Manchester hopes to spend £63 million a year on housing. Mr Stringer acknowledges that the investment by the development corporation over its five-year life span could eventually attract £1 billion in private sector and European funds.

But a final judgment of the development corporation in the city's eyes would be the successful completion of the international concert hall and of the £100 million Great Northern festival market place scheme on 11 acres next to the G-Mex exhibition centre.

The lease owners of the market place, Merit International, which planned to bring leisure, shops and headquarter offices to what is currently a derelict and underused area, recently saw its share price collapse. The development corporation, concerned the site would be sold off piecemeal, used a compulsory purchase order to retrieve control. The corporation is confident that another developer will pick up the scheme.

Hallé parks itself on an old car site

The orchestra is moving to a new £100 million arts-commerce centre

A start is planned later this year on the international concert hall for Manchester, part of the Great Bridgewater Initiative by Beazer Projects, the company that won the right to develop three large sites near the G-Mex centre at a probable cost of £100 million (Ronald Faux writes).

The hall will rise from a 3.4-acre site in Lower Mosley Street, as present a car park. The complex will include 250,000 sq ft of office space, a museum, a gallery and shops grouped around a newly excavated canal basin.

The Free Trade Hall, the traditional home of the Hallé Orchestra, will be refurbished as 100,000 sq ft of offices. The hall's listed Peter Street frontage will be kept and the Hallé will move lock, stock and music stands into the new concert hall.

The third part of the project, a 1.25-acre site in Great Bridgewater Street overlooking the Rochdale canal, will be redeveloped as a hotel or commercial premises.

The concert hall is planned as the centrepiece of Manchester's cultural services, joining a variety of attractions, from grand opera to Coronation Street, the make-believe television northern terrace which attracts 850,000 visitors a year to the Granada.

The company aims to attract more visitors by lengthening the studio tour to five hours, thus strengthening the tourism appeal of the

Castlefields area, which already has a group of imaginatively presented museums.

Generating about 10,000 jobs and £350 million of turnover, the culture "industry" is important to the city. Manchester differs from many other northern cities in having live theatre at the Royal Exchange, the Palace and the Opera House. A new recording studio gives the Manchester popular-music scene exciting possibilities. There is a vitality across the cultural spectrum that has brought more than ten million visitors to the city every year.

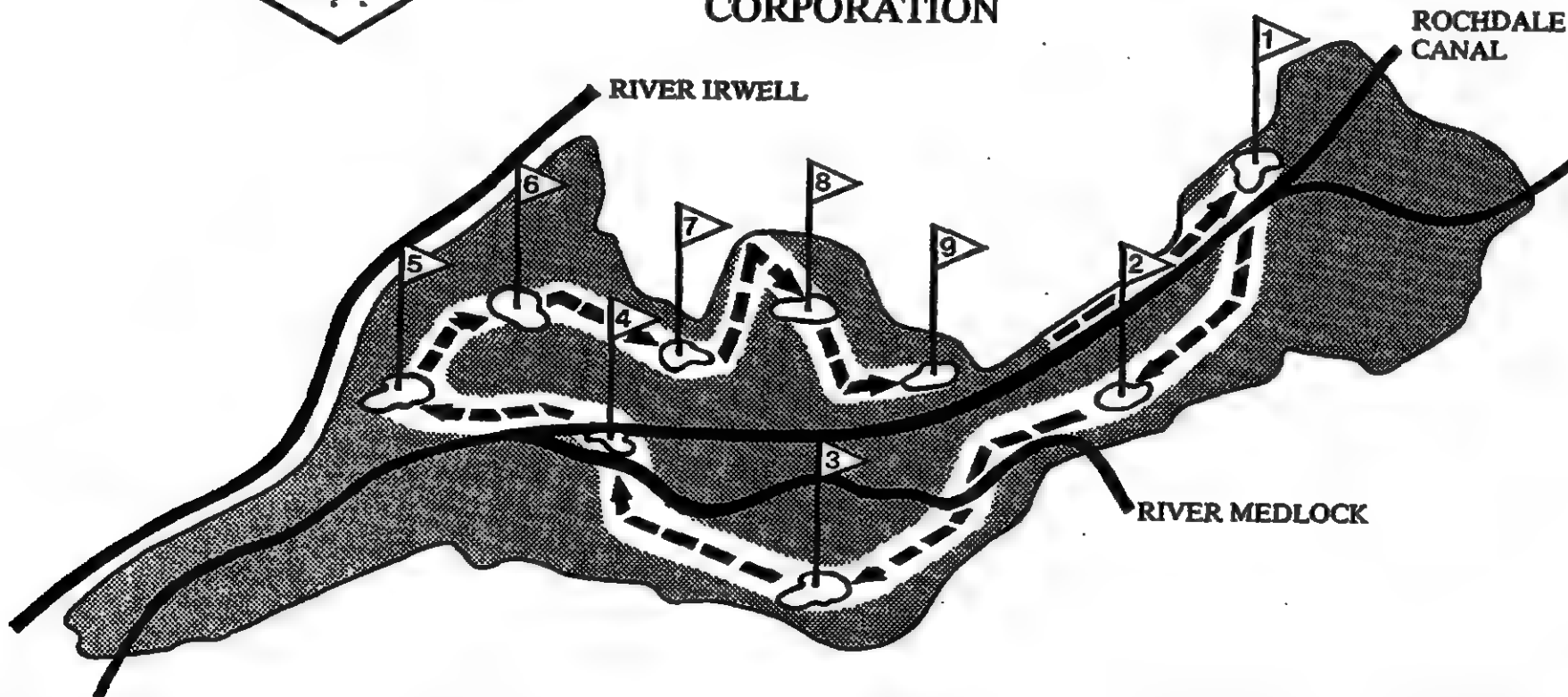
The strongest visible proof of what can be achieved by adapting old eyesores for profitable use lies in the G-Mex centre, once the city's Central station, from which the last train departed on May 5, 1969, at 11pm. For ten years it stood as a symbol of the city's dejection until its £20 million restoration as an exhibition centre. Jack Bogle, the architect, preserved the most dramatic features of Victorian engineering in the sweep of the roof, and the building has been a catalyst for nearby developments.

Early estimates of demand for exhibition space were too cautious — the third-year target was reached in the first year. About 40 exhibitions a year have been booked for two years and even healthier demand is expected when the single European market is established.



On the move: the Hallé's new home is at present a car park.

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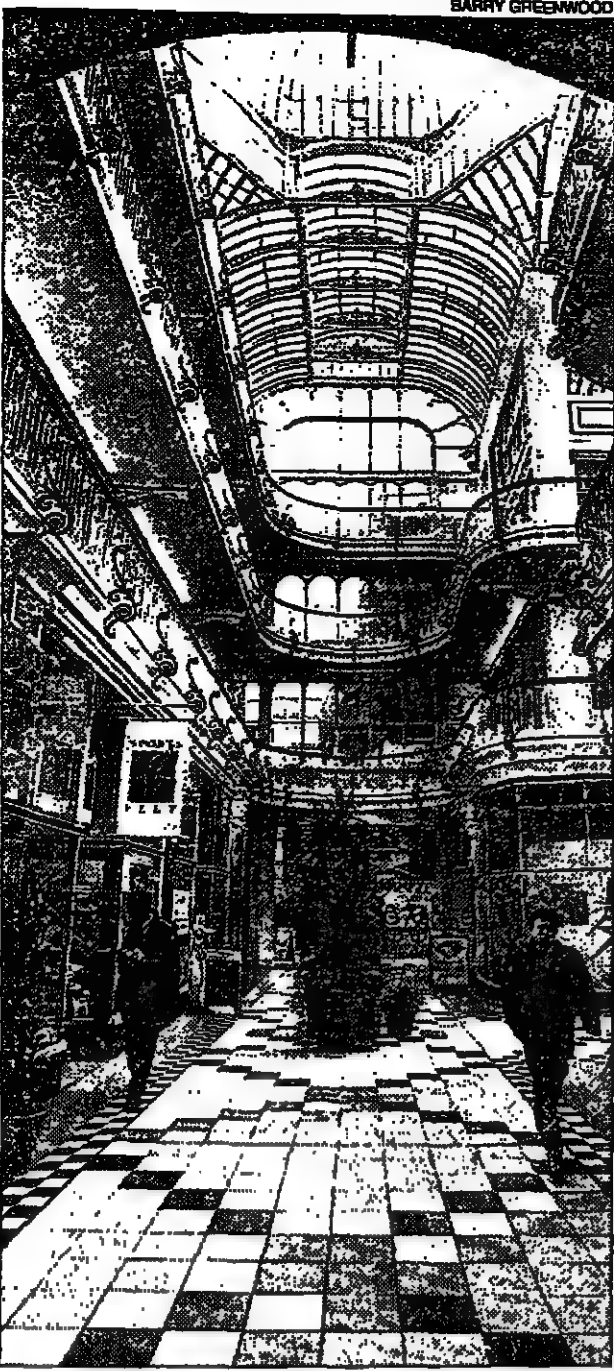
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Splendour in the glass: the recently restored Barton Arcade

The grand design to make a community

John Glester, the chief executive of Central Manchester Development Corporation, broods over the rooftops of central Manchester with the help of a scale model of the city in his office. Familiar landmarks and buildings are spread out in miniature, allowing him a high-speed scrutiny of the 470 acres that are being transformed by the corporation.

The project is ambitious. Old warehouses are to be found a new purpose, housing schemes are to bring back life to the centre, leisure projects will sweep into Castletown, a concert hall here and a re-located British Council headquarters there (Ronald Faux writes).

The schemes are intended to wrinkle the conservative financial and professional sectors out of the golden half-square mile, where they are crammed like pin-striped sardines, and into what they fear to be bed territory.

One of the most important of the undeveloped city-centre sites is an empty quarter near the G-Mex centre. Mr Glester admits that those 11 acres have run into difficulties. The corporation compulsorily purchased them after the shares of the intended developer, Merlin International, collapsed. Two or three other companies are showing interest and Mr Glester is confident that the Great Northern Festival Market Place, to cost an estimated £100 million, will go ahead.

How a city centre is being created with housing, leisure, shops and commerce

One impact of the recession is that few development companies are speculating with bank finance, preferring their own internal resources.

The development corporation is the key to the city centre's future, financed by the government under the Action for Cities programme, going where entrepreneurs are happy to follow but reluctant to lead.

Since its formation two years ago, more than £150 million of investment has yielded offices, flats and houses, hotels, shops, craft studios, restaurants and a sports centre on the acres of under-used or derelict land in the city's heart.

Mr Glester says that every £1 from the development corporation attracts £4 or £5 from the private sector and that operation should yield 1,500 city-centre homes for sale or rent, 250,000 sq ft of modern office space, 7,000 new jobs, a boost for Manchester's tourist facilities, the restoration of eight miles of river and canals and a handsome city centre.

The risks for a private developer of adapting the great cotton warehouses to a new use, or of clearing up generations of neglect, were too great to be taken in isolation. The task had to have an overall policy, one project supporting and justifying the

next, and linking into a general strategy.

Mr Glester says: "Planning consent was vital. We made what turned out to be an inspired move by employing the city planning department as our agents. Nine out of ten schemes have been approved and more than nine out of ten of them were processed within two months."

Since the operation started more than two years ago, neglected and derelict buildings have emerged with restored walls and refurbished interiors from behind cocoons of plastic sheeting.

Eight miles of canals that were the commercial arteries of Manchester in Victorian times are under restoration at a cost of \$6 million. The waterways, threading through the city centre, were left derelict, or neglected, for years until the realisation dawned that people enjoyed such an amenity.

Five bridge parapets on the Rochdale and Ashton canal are being lowered to give passers-by a view of the concealed waterway, and small canal tributaries are being extended or restored to give character to development schemes at Piccadilly Village, Castle Quay, the Castletown Hotel and Albion Wharf.

Mr Glester says the corporation's land-use plans divide into equal thirds of office development, residential property and tourism facilities. Funding follows much the same pattern.

"When we started there," Mr Glester says, "there were only a handful of people actually living in the centre of the city."

"When our schemes are finished, there could be 5,000 residents, giving a new heart and vitality to Manchester city centre."



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New streetcars of desirability

Forty years after the last Manchester tram clanked to a halt, the city is recruiting a new generation of tram drivers. They will be sent to Belgium for training and return to operate the Metrolink "supertram" system scheduled to open this autumn between the city centre and Bury to the north and Altrincham to the south (Ronald Faux writes).

Like most northern industrial cities, Manchester has a tradition of tramways. Old tracks lurk in the city centre's buried cobbles, occasionally visible where the metal surface has worn thin.

David Rumney, the senior project engineer with the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive, says the tracks help to hold the road together when there is a subterranean collapse. But they have no part of the new system that runs on tracks now being laid in the streets, or on lines of the same gauge taken over from British Rail. The trams will give a five-

Manchester is making a bold transport move, introducing trams that can travel on rail lines as well as along streets

minute service at peak times, whisking 10,000 passengers an hour in all directions across the city and carrying 11 million commuters a year. "Crush-laden", each tram will carry 270 passengers.

A fares structure is being worked out, balanced to make the service attractive enough to persuade travellers to leave their cars at home but with a premium to give some profit to the private sector, which the government insisted should be involved. The trams will gather power from overhead wires and move quietly down welded track set in shock-absorbent material, with rubber inserts on the wheels to reduce the customary clanking sounds. They will move at up to 30 mph in town and 50 mph elsewhere and will represent the first British tramway to be opened for half a century.

Mr Rumney says: "The trams are similar in many respects to those that are so successful in Amsterdam and Grenoble."

The trams will serve the existing BR stations on their way into the city centre, linking the G-Mex centre, St Peter's Square, Piccadilly, the Arndale Centre and Victoria

station. The route has been designed to conflict as little as possible with normal traffic. The first run on the Bury line is planned for September 23.

Greater Manchester Metro will operate the system. Extensions are already under consideration, to Rochdale, Glossop, Marple, Barton, Salford Quays and Trafford Park.

Platforms at the new stations will have gently sloping ramps to make boarding easier. Work has started on the operations centre and "supertram" depot at Cheetham Hill.

A flyover and underpass is being built in the Cornbrook area to carry the trams on to the Altrincham BR line, where the tram becomes a train and takes to the railway without so much as a wobble.

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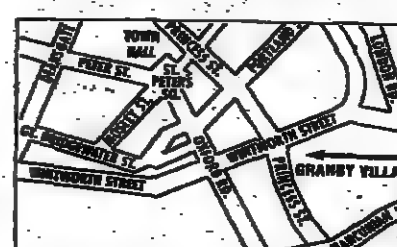
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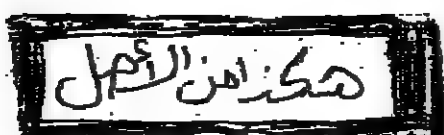


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Company		6/6	6/7	6/6	6/7	6/6	6/7
112	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
113	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
114	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
115	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
116	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
117	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
118	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
119	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
120	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
121	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
122	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
123	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
124	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
125	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
126	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
127	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
128	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
129	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
130	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
131	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
132	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
133	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
134	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
135	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
136	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
137	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
138	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
139	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
140	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
141	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
142	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
143	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
144	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
145	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
146	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
147	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
148	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
149	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8
150	Investment Co.	100	100	87.81	87.81	4.3	23.8

COMMODITIES

COCOA

LONDON FOX COFFEES			
Mar	697-888	May	715-511
Apr	639-938	Jun	535-235
May	687-888	Jul	554-552
Jun	697-888	Aug	554-552
Sep	687-888	Sep	570-572
Oct	722-720	Nov	597-590
Nov	747-747	Dec	617-617
Dec	786-786	Jan	623-619
Vol: 12858		Vol: 12858	

SUGAR (FOW)

May	194.9-94.6
Aug	186.4-86.2
Nov	193.5-93.0
Feb	186.5-86.4
May	191.2-91.4
Aug	186.3-86.1
Nov	183.3-83.4
Feb	202.22

WHEAT

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES			
Close	125.00	Barley	124.25
Mar	129.50	May	118.00
Apr	129.50	Jun	118.00
May	129.50	Jul	118.00
Sep	110.00	Oct	115.00
Nov	113.00	Jan	115.00
Dec	113.00	Feb	143
Vol	261	Vol	143

BARLEY

H-PRIO COTTA			
Close	115.13	May	115.13
Mar	115.13	Jun	115.13
Apr	115.13	Jul	115.13
May	115.13	Aug	115.13
Sep	115.13	Oct	115.13
Nov	115.13	Nov	115.13
Dec	115.13	Dec	115.13
Vol	139	Vol	139

PEANUTS (BAY/1/MT)

S&P COT 100 Europe (Percent added)			
Premium Gen 1.5	Mar	243 (+7)	Apr: 246 (+7)
	Apr	190 (-8)	190 (-8)
	May	195 (-10)	195 (-10)
Non EEC 1/4 Mar		190 (-8)	190 (-8)
Non EEC 1/4 Apr		175 (+7)	177 (-3)
Non EEC 1/4 May		171 (-3)	171 (-3)
S. Nigeria		69 (-2)	71 (+2)
		228 (+4)	228 (+4)

ICE FUTURES

GAS OIL			
Mar	100.50-0.25	May	100.25-0.20
Apr	107.25-0.37	Jun	101.25-0.50
May	106.00-0.10	Sep	101.25-0.50
Jun	109.25-0.00		Vol 108.77

BRENT

Mar	18.20-18.40	May	17.75-18.00
Apr	18.00-18.70		Vol 94

BITUMEN

Feb 91	High: 1800	Low: 1600	Close: 1886
Mar 91	1640	1600	1828
Apr 91	1465	1440	1468
Jul 91	1195	1180	1150
Vol: 300 lots		Open Interest: 4172	

DRY CARGO INDEX 1704 +2

WHEAT

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE			
Contract	1296.0-1300.0	Strait	1296.0-1300.0
31.10-31.50		32.10-32.50	
33.10-33.50		34.10-34.50	
35.10-35.50		36.10-36.50	
37.10-37.50		38.10-38.50	
39.10-39.50		40.10-40.50	
41.10-41.50		42.10-42.50	
43.10-43.50		44.10-44.50	
45.10-45.50		46.10-46.50	
47.10-47.50		48.10-48.50	
49.10-49.50		50.10-50.50	
51.10-51.50		52.10-52.50	
53.10-53.50		54.10-54.50	
55.10-55.50		56.10-56.50	
57.10-57.50		58.10-58.50	
59.10-59.50		60.10-60.50	
61.10-61.50		62.10-62.50	
63.10-63.50		64.10-64.50	
65.10-65.50		66.10-66.50	
67.10-67.50		68.10-68.50	
69.10-69.50		70.10-70.50	
71.10-71.50		72.10-72.50	
73.10-73.50		74.10-74.50	
75.10-75.50		76.10-76.50	
77.10-77.50		78.10-78.50	
79.10-79.50		80.10-80.50	
81.10-81.50		82.10-82.50	
83.10-83.50		84.10-84.50	
85.10-85.50		86.10-86.50	
87.10-87.50		88.10-88.50	
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Egg that sandwiches a family

A people-carrier may be the answer for the large family outing.
Kevin Eason finds the Toyota Previa has just about everything

For the first time, I have gone to work on an egg. The egg in question costs £18,000 and proved its remarkable qualities in a snowstorm. The new Toyota Previa is one of a growing number of "people-carriers" aimed at the market for recreational vehicles, especially useful for large families.

Seven seats and a large luggage space usually means trading size for an ugly slab-sided wind-catcher, often expensive because it is four-wheel drive and not meant to be driven as a normal road-going saloon.

The Previa has all the virtues of a large saloon and few of the faults of a van-sized vehicle. A few days behind the wheel convinced me that this is one of the most interesting vehicles I have found on British roads for some time.

The voting for European Car of the Year in 1990, but can somebody explain why it was so low in the order? It is a distinctive performer and has innovations that will make it one of the most sought-after in its class.

Toyota, Japan's biggest motor company, has led the search for new European or American design talent to add to its own outstanding reputation for engineering excellence and reliability.

Toyota has long experience in people-carriers, or multi-purpose vehicles, with its Spacecruiser, but

the company wanted to use that successful formula to attract the growing number of family drivers wanting big, but not bulky, vehicles.

The Previa's bulbous bodywork is the result of development at Toyota's Caltex design and research base at Newport Beach, California, where the American team produced a design virtually based on an egg — a narrow, sharp nose, a bulging middle and a sleek rear. The resulting drag co-efficient — the slipperiness of the vehicle through the air — is 0.34, about as good as most saloons.

I was given a demonstration of just how aerodynamic the Previa was in the worst of the February snowstorms. As I ploughed through a blizzard, snowflakes were blown up and over the huge 16 sq ft windscreen, making wipers almost unnecessary.

The vehicle is surefooted because its 2.4-litre engine is low-slung in the middle of the body, giving a 50-50 weight balance between front and rear, and there is the benefit of a wider than normal wheeltrack. The result is the best of the Land-Rover, as the driver is in a high, commanding position, and the best of an executive saloon, as there is smooth engine power delivery and

the same light manoeuvrability.

For passengers, the result is pure luxury. The front seats are arm-chair-like, and driver and passenger face a curious deep dashboard console, which could be space-age except for its quaint, almost art deco speedometer and rev-counter dials.

There is a row of three middle seats and then twin rear seats, big enough for three, followed by 23.66 cu ft of luggage space, enough for three or four family-sized suitcases. Fold away the rear seats and the luggage area grows into a cavernous 62.94 cu ft. Entry is easy through a sliding middle door or a flip-up rear door.

Although the Previa is more than 15ft long and almost 6ft wide, there is no need to be daunted by its size. The light power steering and wide-open glass area make driving and — more important for some — parking relatively easy.

There is also no need to fear the worst at the pumps. The Previa is a big vehicle with a 16.5-gallon (75-litre) petrol tank, but it can easily give 25 to 30 miles to the gallon on a relaxed motorway journey.

The driver with a growing family squeezed into the confines of the customary executive saloon may wonder where relief from the squish can be found, particularly if grandma or other relatives



Sleek and roomy: the Previa takes at least seven in comfort

decide to join the family outing. The answer could be to take on the size of a Previa without adding too greatly to the family budget.

ESSENTIALS

Price: £14,099. Standard features include twin (front and middle) sunroofs, tinted glass and laminated windscreen, six-speaker anti-theft radio, til-

adjustable steering and alarm. Engine: mid-mounted, 2.4-litre, 16-valve, twin-cam fuel-injected for 133 brake horsepower through five-speed manual gearbox and rear wheels. Four-speed automatic gearbox available. Performance: 0 to 60mph in 11.3 seconds, top speed 112mph, fuel 22.1mpg around town and 24.1mpg at a steady 75mph.

How to make a sluggish salesman join the sales drive

If the smart salesman with a full order book is rewarded with a company Rover, should there be a booty prize for colleagues with a poor sales record?

Bed monthly figures for individual sales representatives at Zenith Data Systems, a computer company in Slough, Berkshire, might mean exchanging the normal-issue company car for a pre-revolution Trabant (Kevin Eason writes).

The culture shock of swapping a British-made Ford, Vauxhall or Rover for the plastic-bodied 1965 East German "Trabant" was intended by Roy Sargent, Zenith's southern vice-president, to spur staff to improve.

As a sweetener, the person at the top of the sales league table gets the prize of driving a £15,000 Toyota MR2 two-seater sports car for a month. The worst spends a day, shame-faced, in the sky-blue

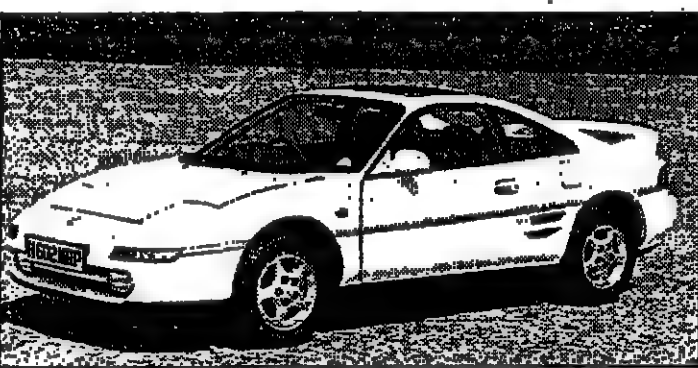


Losers and winners: Zenith sales people gather round the booty prize Trabant (left), but their ambition is to drive the MR2 (right)

Trabant, with its smoke-belching two-stroke engine.

The time with the Trabant had to be limited because Zenith executives had no confidence that sales people would reach their destinations if made to drive the old runabout for a whole month.

A Zenith spokesman said: "The car is obviously used to spur competition, but there was no use in pretending that a salesman could keep all his appointments in it. Instead, he has to drive the Trabant for a day as penance and can then start competing again for a chance to drive the sports car."



None of the eight sales people on the Beaulieu trip, however, wanted to drive the Trabant to Hampshire. In the end, John Crawford, the regional sales manager, volunteered for a taste of his own medicine. Next month it will be someone else's turn.

Even though hundreds of thousands of Trabants were made, they are still rare in the West, and the Zenith sales people recently displayed their car at Lord Montagu's National Motor Museum at Beaulieu in Hampshire.

None of the eight sales people on the Beaulieu trip, however, wanted to drive the Trabant to Hampshire. In the end, John Crawford, the regional sales manager, volunteered for a taste of his own medicine. Next month it will be someone else's turn.

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- 91 (9) 300SEL BLUE/BLACK/CREAM HIDE, AUTO-CLIMATE, 180000 miles, 1990, £22,995
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- 91 (9) 300SEL BLUE/BLACK/CREAM HIDE, AUTO-CLIMATE, 180000 miles, 1990, £22,995
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that argument, it would amply establish Save's case of substantial prejudice. But his Lordship regarded the argument as entirely fanciful.

It was only in the "special circumstances of this case" that the secretary of state had decided that the presumption in

The inspector's report has emphasized the unique location of the appeal site in a unique urban conservation area characterised by listed buildings of the greatest architectural distinction.

It was in that context that both the inspector and the secretary of state concluded that the James Stirling building would be a unique and modern addition to the architectural fabric of this part of the City and would contribute more, both to the immediate environment and to the City's heritage, than would the retention of the existing buildings."

It was so improbable that the special circumstances which affected the appeal could be taken into account that the Secretary of State's apprehension with respect to the impact of the decision letter on future planning policy was quite

His Lordship added that the public controversy over the case arose from differences of opinion about traditional and contemporary architectural styles. The case aroused strong feelings but were not concern of the courts.

It was a trite observation, but could bear repetition in a case like the present, that their Lordships' concern was solely with the legality of the decision-making process, not at all with the merits of the decision.

Lord Ackner delivered a concurring speech and Lord Brandon, Lord Templeman and Lord Goff agreed.

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GARMENT	AGE
Anorak	6/12/18 months
Snowsuit	

Anorak	18 months 2/3/4 years
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As part of our policy to set the highest standards of safety for Children's Clothing, we have identified that the toggle shaped buttons on some Snowsuits and Anoraks, if detached, can cause a hazard in the mouths of small children.

The garments involved, which were part of our Autumn 1990 range, can be identified as follows:

GARMENT	AGE	COLOUR	NUMBER
Anorak	} 6/12/18 months	Green with moon and star print	T77 3002/1640
Snowsuit		Red with moon and star print	T77 3002/1515
Snowsuit		Turquoise with lilac and pink	T77 3002/1516
Anorak	18 months 2/3/4 years	Purple with green and pink	T77 3002/4246

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VAT issue vital in Commons enquiry

any it, only time, that the
enemy, will tell.

Against the Scots, we fought

We were accused of not opening up the game when we were so much in control, but at three-quarter time we were only 18-6

On the receiving end: Rob Andrew, right, and his partner, Richard Hill, at practice at the Stoop Memorial Ground yesterday

So let's get things into perspective — this is a winning England side. We have won 13 out of our last 16 matches — a record many a national team would love to have.

We had glimpses of the style in 1988 when we scored six tries against Ireland, and more glimpses against Australia at Twickenham that year. We produced some of the best rugby you could wish to see. The '89 championship was a little dour while we were still finding our

Underwood and Nigel Heslop. Because, as we have proved, when it's on song, it is great to watch, and has been the best rugby in the championship in the past two or three seasons. There is still a desire to play that kind of rugby.

With Rob Saunders, the Irish captain, being quoted as saying they will run the ball at every opportunity against us, it should be quite a match.

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Georghegan: fine control

This season the graph has gone straight up; he played for one month, for Ireland's under-21 side against Spain and the B team against Argentina. His achievements brought selection for the national training squad just after Christmas when Ireland's most-experienced wing, Keith Crossan, was still recovering from injury.

Since then, the younger Underwood's rating appears to have slipped but the withdrawal of Adedayo Adebayo, the Bathing, due to an ankle injury.

of a second faster than the early leader, Thomas Fröhmann, of Austria.

RESULTS: Caters prize: 1, Oste Carpatha
Aventur (J-C Vandenberghs, Bel), 0 in
23.8sec; 2, Privilege (H Bourdy, Fr),
0.28.8; 3, Böckmann's Lämor (T
Frühm, Austria), 0.30.5.

Cheltenham trials, page 39

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Cheltenham trials, page 39

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enemy, will tell.

iam should pass on England's

Several senior players may return after the World Cup in

ould go on to dominate northern hemisphere rugby in the 1990s. What happened in the Eighties must never be repeated.

David Pegler, the former island B and London captain, makes his first senior appearance of the season for Wasps at

that the players would turn up, wear opposing colours, learn a few different plays, and that the World League would be born. When linemen come up against

day of training, ended with a pile of bodies, and a tussle of rare intensity for team colleagues. Jobs, as they also say here, are on the line.

all starts on March 23, in Frankfurt, only 22 days away. The "product" is still being tested. Whether the world will

